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African Violet

MAGAZINE

Volume 45 Number 1 January • February 1992

1892 - 1992 — A Century of Violets



Strictly Business — Your Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

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AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$15.00; Council, State or Region - \$30. *Please complete the form received with your renewal notice and return to AVSA office with affiliate dues check.*

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards, how to organize a chapter or membership questions, write Irene Merrell, W 283 Hillendale Dr., Oconomowoc, WI 53066.

AVSA OFFICE: Nancy Lawrence, Office Manager, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704, 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST.

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BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Ruth Warren, P. O. Box 3664, Fall River, MA 02722.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions (club or individual) to Marlene Buck, P. O. Box 38, Oreland, PA 19075.

BUILDING FUND: Send contributions to Anne Jantzen, 2725 Katrina Way, Mountain View, CA 94040.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: David Buttram, P. O. Box 193, Independence, MO 64051.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact J. R. Pittman, 12406 Alexandria, San Antonio, TX 78233.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Esther Edwards Wells, 948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068 by Sept. 1.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Jan. issue. Send special requests for workshop programs; suggest names of interesting speakers to DoDe Whitaker, Convention Director, 2085 Leeward Lane, Merritt Island, FL 32953. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Columbus, Ohio - April 20 - 26, 1992; Lancaster, Pennsylvania - April 19 - 24, 1993; Denver, Colorado - May 23 - 28, 1994; St. Louis, Missouri - May 22-27, 1995; Atlanta, Georgia - May 23-27, 1996

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LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Ralph Breden, 127 Via Los Altos, Redondo Beach, CA 90277.

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ARTICLES by Members & Columnists: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENT NOTICES: Send to Editor.

***Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists & Coming Events:** Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

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MVL BINDER: 3-ring, two pockets, deep burgundy - \$6.95

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 1407 Calle Espana, San Dimas, CA 91773. Back supplements (1984 to 1989) available from AVSA Office for \$1.50 each.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1990 MVL - \$25.00. Updates (when available) - \$25.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members, only. Members renewing, receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

MINIATURE & SEMIMINIATURE VARIETY LIST: Available at AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704. Price, \$4.00 postpaid.

SUPPLEMENTS FOR MINI LIST: \$1.50 each.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Mrs. Janet T. Riemer, 256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd., Pennington, NJ 08534.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research, or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Frank Tinari, 2325 Valley Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$6.00 ppd. Order from AVSA Office.

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African Violet

MAGAZINE

Vol. 45 Number 1

January/February 1992

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

ON THE COVER — *The Alps*, (Japanese), best in class at the 1991 AVSA Convention/Show in Santa Clara, CA, grown by Barbara Elkin, Auburn, CA.

(Cover photo by Ernest Braun, Photographer, San Francisco)

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Application for Membership Recommended by: _____ Membership # _____

African Violet Society of America, Inc.
P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704

Date _____

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While AVSA cannot assume responsibility for advertisers, we try to help resolve the problem.

If an advertiser is found irresponsible, they will be refused future ads.

From the President's Desk



Dear AVSA Members,

The holidays are over and new challenges will be forthcoming for 1992. Without them, life would be very boring.

The AVSA board and myself wish you all the health and prosperity that the new year can bring.

We at AVSA are starting out with a very interesting and exciting year. The exciting part is that we have a new columnist on the breeding of African violets. Most of you are familiar with the name Irene Fredette, a very special woman, and we are fortunate and honored to have her column, "Creating with Fredette," in our AVM.

Along with our own outstanding AVSA national convention at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus, Ohio, the AmeriFlora '92 will also be available for you to attend. I was there in October and visited the promotional office where they had a large miniature layout of all the locations of the exhibitors. They also have a bus for groups to tour the work in progress. It is going to be gorgeous. The day I was there, they launched a replica of one of the vessels that Columbus sailed in when he discovered America. It was a very fascinating event. AmeriFlora '92 will be a magnificent display and a must if you can possibly attend.

Ava and I ended up buying season passes, at senior rates, as it is larger, they say, than Disneyland. Do come early and stay late as your special room rate will remain the same.

The executive committee had their mid-term meeting in Beaumont, Texas, taking care of business, as usual, for the betterment of AVSA and to present to the board, the new motions for their approval.

IT HAPPENED! We had the dedication of our new AVSA office. As they say in Texas, "Thanks, y'all." If it wasn't for your donations, it would never have been.

The dedication was performed by the local Chamber of Commerce and the ribbon cutting ceremony was by the Honorable Beaumont Mayor, Evelyn Lord, an AVSA member, and yours truly.

The refreshments were provided and donated by L. T. Ozio, Jr., AVSA Second Vice President, and his wife, Yvonne. Thank you both.

Of course, everyone came from far and near to attend — members, past presidents, and, of course, the office personnel and the executive board. All in all, it was a wonderful occasion.

Best wishes to all of you,

A stylized, handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charlie". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the text "Best wishes to all of you,".

Newsline: AVSA Beaumont Office

Nancy Lawrence, Office Manager

AmeriFlora '92 and The African Violet Society of America (AVSA) Convention - 1991 Columbus, Ohio

The year 1992 marks the 100th year since the discovery of the African violet and the 500th year of the discovery of America. A celebration *c'est magnifique* to honor both discoveries will begin April 20, in Columbus, Ohio.

AVSA will celebrate with its 46th annual convention and show, April 20 - April 26. In addition to the opportunity to view more than 1,000 of the most beautiful African violets in the world, participants will see (and be able to buy for the first time in history) the YELLOW African violet. For information on how to attend the convention and show, see the pink pages in this magazine.

AmeriFlora '92, the first International Floral and Garden Exhibition ever to occur in the United States, will run from April 20 to October 12. Balconies, bridges and walkways will wind through a floral paradise featuring cut, and potted flowers, tropical and subtropical plants from all over the world. If you don't feel like walking, you can ride a sky train through the gardens. *We're talking* — a 160-acre AmeriFlora outdoor site.

If all of this has not yet titillated your interest, whet your appetite with the thought of exquisite food from all over the world or let the more than 50,000 entertainers lift your spirits or satisfy your taste for history at the Smithsonian's exhibit on Columbus' voyage. For more information on AmeriFlora '92 call 1-800-BUCKEYE. Come and share this magnificent celebration of the discovery of America, and the African violet, with us all.

WE had a celebration right here in Beaumont, Texas that was very exciting to all who attended — the *opening of our national office!*

The Mayor of Beaumont, the Honorable Evelyn Lord (a member of AVSA) cut the ribbon along with our President, A. Charles Bollar. All

of our Executive Officers attended the opening and the African Violet Society of Beaumont helped to host the ceremonies. Refreshments were provided and elegantly served by our Second Vice President, L. T. Ozio, Jr., and his wife, Yvonne.

Mary A. Boland, our Immediate Past President presented us with a striking, customized AVSA flag, designed by her daughter, Annamarie Mays. We proudly fly the flag over the front door of the office. Incidentally, Mary Boland and our Treasurer, Wynne Voorhees, deserve a special thank you — they were the ones that located the site of our new office, while on a trip to Beaumont.

Hortense Pittman, our First Vice President, brought many of her beautiful, prize-winning African violets, which not only enhanced the beauty of our opening, but which also created excitement among the growers who attended. Hortense presented a lovely hybrid to the Mayor, who was ever-so-pleased.

Anne Tinari, who is one of the founders of AVSA, and her husband, Frank, presented the office with a plant stand complete with 12 gorgeous plants — nine of the recent Concerto Series hybrids and three of the prize-winning White and Pink Cameo hybrids. We are especially grateful to Anne Tinari, who is absolutely the greatest promoter of AVSA of all time.

Commercials who ship: Very often members and non-members contact the office to ask for names of our commercial members who ship within the USA and internationally. We know of a few, but would like to comprise an accurate list. If you ship, please notify us and give the following information:

Name, address and phone number
Ship USA____Ship International____
Ship both____What countries____
Sell retail____Sell retail & wholesale____
Sell wholesale only____
Provide catalog or list____At what cost____

We will give this information to members who request it.



Jane's Journal

Jane Birge, Editor

I wish all of you could have been here in beautiful Beaumont, Texas for the official ribbon cutting for the new permanent home for AVSA. Without all of you, none of this would have been possible. It was great having all of the executive committee here, but we also had special guests such as **Cathleen Graves** from as far away as Tacoma, Washington! A good representation was here from our neighboring state, Louisiana, and even **David Buttram** made it all the way from Independence, Missouri. **Ron and Ann Miller** of Centerville, Ohio, showed up, as well as lots of faithful AVSA members from throughout Texas. It was grand fun, with Mayor **Evelyn Lord** doing the honors and taking home some violets, and everyone enjoyed the "incredible edibles" provided by **L. T. and Yvonne Ozio**. A delightful cable was received from **Joan Halford** of South Africa wishing us all well. Thank you, Joan.

My flag collection is still growing with recent gifts from **Kazuo Horikoshi** sending me the beautiful Japanese flag; **Mary Gall** not letting the state of Kansas go by unrepresented; **David Buttram** carrying the flag of Missouri to the dedication ceremonies; and **Phyllis Harris** and the **Sundowners AVS** sending the flag from the great state of Louisiana.

In the last issue of the *AVM*, someone asked for a source to purchase *Bridal Lace*, the plant that was on the cover of the May/June 1991 *AVM*. Well, I heard from a lot of people telling me where you can purchase the plant — they are: **Violets by Appointment**, 45 Third Street, West Sayville, NY 11796; **Bay Valley Violets**, P. O. Box 1052, Midland, MI 48641-1052; **Violet Express**, 1441 Everett Road, Eagle River, WI

54521; **Big Sky Violets**, 10678 Schoolhouse Lane, Moiese, MT 59824; **Zaca Vista Nursery**, 1190 Alamo Pintado Rd., Solvang, CA 93463; **Cape Cod Violetry**, 28 Minot St., Falmouth, MA 02540 and **Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses**, 14 Mutchler St., Dolgeville, NY 13329.

I was also informed of an AVID supplier: **BFG Supply Co.**, P. O. Box 479, Burton, OH 44021.

Barbara Goodsell sent me an interesting Associated Press article from the *Chicago Tribune*, that she thought might be of interest to our readers ... it seems "Drug Enforcement Administration agents have been working on 'Operation Green Merchant' and have subpoenaed dozens of garden-supply houses for the names of anyone who has bought so much as a fluorescent lamp or a box of plant food." Apparently, the growing of marijuana indoors is perceived as a cottage industry and they are going after it. The agency hopes to use information from garden suppliers to get search warrants against some customers. Garden suppliers are furious. Gold Coast Hydroponics has challenged the subpoenas. The case is being heard in U.S. District Court in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

I want you all to look for a special *Woman's Day* issue to be released this spring, that will focus on plant societies. I recently worked with one of the writers to ensure AVSA would be properly represented. Also, if you live in Texas, look for a recent issue of *Texas Gardener*, in which **Nancy Lawrence**, AVSA office manager, helped the writer with information.

Happy new year to you all and I hope to see you at the 1992 AVSA Convention/Show in Columbus, Ohio — I can't wait.

IN MEMORY

EVA LISSETTA YOST

11-10-24 - 8-18-91

Eva died on August 18, 1991, after an extended illness. She was a member and past president of Capital City African Violet Club of Sacramento, CA, for four terms (1982, 1983, 1985 & 1986). She was also an AVSA Judge.

Eva generously shared her knowledge of violets with new growers and we who knew and loved her will miss her.

*Ruby Roloff
President, Capital City AVS*

ELIZABETH "BESS" WEBER

Elizabeth "Bess" Weber died in Minneapolis, MN on August 19, 1991, after a short illness. She is survived by her husband, Norman.

Her special interests were gardening and music. She was a member of the New York Metropolitan Opera Guild. Her yard reflected her love of flowers. She was a member of AVSA, AVS of Minnesota and the Mrs. Gregg AVC.

Bess was a warm and gentle woman. We miss her.

*Margaret Maresh
Secretary, Mrs. Gregg AVC*

HELP WANTED

Help wanted: Your library committee chairman solicits your assistance during our Columbus, Ohio convention. If you have any expertise in photography and would like a preview of the show room before it is officially opened, please contact Library Committee Chairman, Ralph Breden.

Also, if you have a minicam and possess the talent of using it, as well as editing video tape, you will be especially welcomed to participate in a proposed library project. Ralph is waiting to hear from you. He can be reached at 127 Via Los Altos, Redondo Beach, CA 90277, (310-373-6797).

AVSA Booster Fund

*Ruth Warren
P. O. Box 3664
Fall River, MA 02722*

The response to the funding for the computer and printer for the AVSA office has been gratifying. We are now at the \$2,000.00 mark and we are very grateful for the excellent efforts from so many of our affiliates, councils, individuals and clubs. Our sincere hope is that with the continued support, we will be able to announce in the next edition of the AVM that our goal has been reached. You will be able to share in this successful endeavor with your consideration, contribution and support.

Sugarloaf Mountain AVS	10.00
Milwaukee AVS	10.00
Bluff City AVC	
in honor of Charles Phillips	25.00
AVC of Florida	25.00
High Hopes AVC of South Atlanta	25.00
Bellflower AVS	20.00
AVS of San Francisco	25.00
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Don Thornburg	10.00
Union County Chapter AVS	25.00
Thimble Islands AVS	25.00
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Le Chateau AVC	5.00
Ardath Miller	10.00
Tara AVC	25.00
Northwest AVC	10.00
Chenango AVS	10.00
Beaumont AVS	
in memory of Mary Pigg & Connie Barbay	20.00
Thousand Islands AVS	
in lieu of speaker's fee to Lynn Lombard	25.00
Vivian Hiltz	
in honor of Geneva Cruze	20.00

Creating ...

with Fredette

Irene Fredette
1545 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517



Since this is my maiden voyage at the helm of this column, this issue will find me cruising along the shore and away from deeper waters until I obtain some navigation charts from you, the readers. What would you like to explore? What are your observations and interests? What have you always wanted to know about plant breeding but were afraid to ask? Your letters will be most welcome. Though it may not be possible to answer each one individually, they certainly will be given every consideration and your questions and comments will be used in this column. The response will not be based solely on my own experience, but also on the input from several good friends who are quite knowledgeable in the area of genetics and plant breeding.

Over the years, our own Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station has provided invaluable assistance, as has the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens and a number of experts from several universities. These people have always been generous in spirit, gracious and willing to exchange ideas or lend a helping hand. To them, I owe a debt of gratitude for enlarging my horizons and challenging my curiosity.

Many years of *Saintpaulia* breeding have taught me that the more one learns, the more there is to learn. The beginner can make a random cross with virtually no knowledge other than the simple mechanics of "pollen daubing." However, some knowledge of botanical terminology is helpful to one who intends to progress beyond that first seed pod or two and, eventu-

ally, to breed plants with specific goals in mind. There is an abundance of literature on plant breeding, but the reader needs to develop a working vocabulary in order to keep from stumbling over various terms. One must also learn to read critically and separate the wheat from the chaff — i.e., fact from fiction and "old wives' tales" from scientific evidence.

Generally speaking, there are two types of plant breeders and the distinction is important. Some hybridize just for the fun of it, while others enjoy the pleasure while keeping in mind the more serious purpose of producing improved and/or different varieties. If you are just beginning to breed plants, try to bear in mind that, whereas your initial cross may produce some seedlings which you may find appealing, it is not prudent to name all the seedlings or to register them *en masse*. The ideal situation would be to wait for feedback from all points of the compass and a variety of growers before selecting cultivars to be registered. But, obviously, this is not practical and virtually impossible.

In her excellent book, *Growing To Show*, Pauline Bartholomew remarks: "Protect us from the breeders who, no matter how ordinary or duplicate they may be, register every plant that jumps up from the seedbed." She further explains that too many mediocre cultivars become listed in perpetuity and eventually will make the *Master Variety List* the size of a big city directory. In evaluating seedling, be selective, critical, and cautious. It is not suggested that

your plethora of seedlings be discarded because you feel there is nothing among them which is superior. By all means, share them with friends who may derive pleasure from your unnamed seedlings, but do not give each recipient your permission to name the gift or to register it, because such practices tend to lead to "organized chaos" in the violet world. Nor should every chimera that you chance upon be baptized and registered immediately. Let us assume that a certain popular cultivar frequently sports into a red and white striped blossom. If 10 individuals purchased this chimera at different times and in different places and each buyer named his or her plant, the result is 10 identical plants with 10 different names. No wonder buyers get confused and even irate—especially if one paid \$15 and another picked up an identical copy for \$1.98 at the supermarket.

How can the breeder tell if his seedling is superior? No one can possibly see the tens of thousands of listed cultivars and, thus, no real basis for visual comparison is available. But you certainly don't want to introduce a cultivar which is just like its parent or just like another with which you are familiar. A violet by any other name ... may be just a duplicate.

If you are into serious breeding, however, keep in mind that sometimes "different" or "improved" is not easily discernible, but it may be just as important as that huge flower or that new shade of coral. What does "different" really mean? Let us touch first upon the concealed differences which are more subtle in nature than the obvious ones. These hidden differences will not bring you accolades but they may be of value to growers and other hybridizers and that knowledge alone should make your efforts worthwhile.

Years ago, in pursuit of such less obvious goals, I maintained a "Little Shop of Horrors"—all the way up on the top floor and far removed from the regular growing area. The heat under the roof was intolerable without air conditioning, but what a boon it was when selecting those seedlings which retained their variegation in

high temperatures. Working with the most heat-resistant produced a strain with highly variegated foliage which laughed when the mercury soared. Another pleasant surprise was the discovery that this strain grew well with much less chlorophyll than I had thought was essential. Once I was satisfied with this project, the area was cleared and the humidity increased with the change of seasons. New seedlings were brought in to be tested for resistance to mildew. A search of a storage shed yielded just the companion I needed for the experimental plants—a piece of cloth which was mildewed and furry with fungus. Many seedlings shuddered in horror and succumbed, but several did not. Obviously, these were resistant to mildew, since they remained unaffected even after prolonged exposure. Did these hardy ones delight the eye with any breathtaking or spectacular "difference?" Certainly not! But to me they were special because they had a certain characteristic which would prove to be an asset in subsequent breeding programs. The breeder who knows the background of his cultivars has a certain advantage and is better able to reduce the incidence of unpleasant surprises which can emanate from parents of unknown origin.

When you work with "invisibles," the results may not seem spectacular, but remember that you may be contributing something of value. And the more such contributions, whether overt or covert, the brighter the future for the plant we all love.

And now we come to the end of our brief shore line cruise through shallow waters. On our next voyage, we will examine some specific points of interest to you, so please keep in touch.

Attention: Affiliates

Show writeups will now come under the heading of "Show Talk." Please send information to:

Darryl Hoover
912 S. Highland Ave., Apt. C
Fullerton, CA 92632

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY 24 & 25 TEXAS — Magic Knight AVS of San Antonio show/sale, "America the Beautiful," Crossroads Mall. Open to the public, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., both days. Sandy Sanders, show chair; Shirley Sanders, president.

FEBRUARY 1 & 2 FLORIDA — Mid-Polk AVS show/sale, "Way to Go - Violets," Winter Haven Mall, Winter Haven, regular mall hours. Free admission, public invited. For information: Vena Griffith, show chair, 813-956-4671 or Betty Lombardi, cochair, 813-967-2795.

FEBRUARY 7 - 9 FLORIDA — Upper Pinellas AVS show/sale, "Violets Along the Waterfront," Bay Area Outlet Mall, US 19 & 686, Clearwater. Sale, Feb. 7, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Feb. 8, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Show opens 1 p.m., Feb. 9, noon - 5 p.m. Phyllis King, show chair, 398-7450; Mollie Howell, president.

FEBRUARY 8 & 9 CALIFORNIA — South Coast AVS show/sale, "Violet Fashions," South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes. Feb. 8, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Feb. 9, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Jacquie Eisenhut, show chair, 310-325-2993.

FEBRUARY 8 & 9 MISSOURI — The AVC of Greater Kansas City's 41st show, "Violets Salute the Olympics," Loose Park Garden, Center, 5100 Pennsylvania, Kansas City, MO. Both days, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Pat Richards, show chair; Patty Hart, cochair.

FEBRUARY 8 & 9 FLORIDA — Treasure Coast AVS of Ft. Pierce, show/sale, "Raggedy Ann in Wonderland," Garden Center, 911 Parkway Dr. Feb. 8, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Feb. 9, noon - 4 p.m. Public invited, free admission. For more information: Huddy Pailthorpe, show chair, 407-461-8970.

FEBRUARY 13 - 16 ILLINOIS — Glenview/North Shore AVS sale, O'Hare Expo Center, Rosemont. Feb. 13, 14, 15, 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Feb. 16, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. There are parking and admission charges.

FEBRUARY 22 & 23 LOUISIANA — Rayne AVS' 12th annual show/sale, "Violet Rayne Beau," St. Joseph Family Center, 406 S. Adams Ave., Rayne. Feb. 22, 1 - 3 p.m.; Feb. 23, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free admission.

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1 KANSAS — The Wichita AV Study Club show sale, "Thirty Years and Still Growing," Botanica, 701 N. Amidon, Wichita. Feb. 28, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Mar. 1, 1 - 4 p.m. Free admission. Helen Barret, show chair, 6700 Farmview Lane, Wichita 67206.

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1 CALIFORNIA — The San Francisco Orchid Society's 40th anniversary show, "Pacific Orchid Exposition," Fort Mason Center, San Francisco.

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1 FLORIDA — African Violet Association of Gardeners show/sale, "Discoveries," Winter Park Mall, 17-92 off Lee Road Exit of I-4, Winter Park. Plant sales, Feb. 28, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; show/plant sale, Feb. 29, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Mar. 1, show/plant sale, 12:30 - 5 p.m. Bob Green, show chair, 407-631-1106.

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1 FLORIDA — Tampa AVS show, "Violets in the Sunshine State," Eastlake Square Mall, 5701 East Hillsborough Ave., Tampa. Feb. 28 & 29, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Mar. 1, noon - 5 p.m. For more information: Joanne Martinez, chair, 809 Taray DeAvila, Tampa (813-963-7424). Free admission.

FEBRUARY 29 & MARCH 1 CALIFORNIA — San Diego Daytime AVS show/sale, "Violet Safari," Balboa Park, Room 101 of the Casa del Prado, San Diego. Free admission. Feb. 29, noon - 5 p.m.; Mar. 1, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Show chairs: Anne Stewart (422-6841) and Beverly Decker (442-7484).

MARCH 6 & 7 TEXAS — Spring Branch AVC of Houston's 14th annual show/sale, Fair Haven United Methodist Church, 1330 Gessner (at Long Point). Mar. 6, 2 - 6 p.m.; Mar. 7, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Free admission. Ellen Moskal, show chair. For more information: Judy Carter, 713-492-2034.

MARCH 6 & 7 LOUISIANA — Violets on The Bayou show/sale, Southland Mall, Houma. Public invited, free admission. Mall hours, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Anaise LeBlanc, show chair, 3525 Hwy. 1, Napoleonville 70390, 504-369-7526.

MARCH 7 & 8 LOUISIANA — The Baton Rouge AVS show/sale, "Dining with Violets," Merchants Landing Flea Market, 9800 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge. Mar. 7, 2 - 7 p.m.; Mar. 8, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free to the public. For more information: Fran Spear, 504-665-3686.

MARCH 7 & 8 TEXAS — Corpus Christi AVS' 22nd annual show/sale, Corpus Christi Garden Center, 5325 Greely Dr. Open to the public, no charge. Mar. 7, 1 - 5 p.m.; Mar. 8, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

MARCH 7 & 8 ALABAMA — Capital City AVS show/sale, "Light up Broadway with Violets," Southern Homes and Gardens, Highway 231 North (Wetumpka Highway) Montgomery. Public invited, free admission and parking. Mar. 7, 2 - 5 p.m.; Mar. 8, 1 - 5 p.m. For more information: Sue Mouring, show chair, 262-1831 or Doris Till, president, 264-6509.

MARCH 14 & 15 NEW YORK — Sweet Water AVS show/sale, "Violets Around the Clock," West Sayville Fire Department, Montauk Highway, West Sayville. Mar. 14, 2 - 5 p.m.; Mar. 15, noon - 5 p.m. Admission: donation. Eileen Montgomery and Denise Monteleone, cochairs. For more information: 516-589-2724.

MARCH 18 - 22 TENNESSEE — The Dixie AVS 1992 convention, "Rollin' on the River with Violets," Memphis Airport Hotel (formerly the Memphis Airport Hilton), 2240 Democrat Road, Memphis. Showroom open, Saturday, Mar. 21. Sales room open each day. A judges school and workshops on trailers, design, and the Optimara greenhouses will be offered. Host for the convention is the

Volunteer State AV Council. Additional information: Mary Loewer, Council President, 18 Galway St., Wynne, AR 72396, 501-238-3382.

MARCH 20 & 21 FLORIDA — Central Florida AVS show, "Violets are Magic," Beardall Senior Center, Orlando.

MARCH 20 & 21 NEW JERSEY — Union County Chapter's 38th show/sale, "Violets in Storybook Lane," All Saints Episcopal Church, 599 Park Ave., Scotch Plains. Mar. 20, 6-9 p.m.; Mar. 21, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission and parking. Show cochairs: Chris Brenner, 908-254-8520; and Faith Perrin, 201-635-0529.

MARCH 21 & 22 TEXAS — First Austin AVS show/sale, "Amazing Discoveries," Austin Area Garden Center, Zilker Botanical Garden, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., both days. Free admission. For more information: Mary Beall, show chair, 512-453-2732.

MARCH 21 & 22 CALIFORNIA — San Mateo AVS show/sale, Howard Johnson Hotel, 485 Veterans Blvd. (101 Freeway and Whipple), Redwood City. Mar. 21, 2-6 p.m.; Mar. 22, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission, public welcome. For more information: 415-593-2998.

MARCH 26-28 TEXAS — First AVS of Dallas show/sale, "Violet Spring Symphony," Richardson Square Mall, Plano and Beltline, Richardson. Sale, Mar. 26, 27, 28; show, Mar. 27 & 28, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. For more information: Grace Davis, 214-278-0389.

MARCH 27 & 28 VIRGINIA — Richmond AVS show/sale, "Rediscover Violets," Azalea Mall, Mar. 27, 2-9 p.m.; Mar. 28, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information: 804-222-0947.

APRIL 2-4 TEXAS — Alpha AVS of Dallas show/sale, "Poetry in Bloom," Valley View Mall, 2040 Valley View Mall at L.B.J. Sale: Apr. 2, 3, 4; show, Apr. 3 & 4, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. For more information: Grace Davis, 214-278-0389.

APRIL 3 & 4 NEBRASKA — Lincoln AVS show/sale, "100 Years of African Violets," East Park Plaza, 66th and "O" streets, Lincoln. Apr. 3, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Apr. 4, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Ann Sweeney, show chair, 402-476-1316; Kerry Matigan, cochair, 402-486-1703; Anna Marie Bretthorst, president.

APRIL 3 & 4 NEW JERSEY — Bergen County AVS show/sale, "Easter Parade," Old North Reformed Church, Washington and Madison avenues, Dumont. Apr. 3, 3-9 p.m. Apr. 4, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free admission, non-members are invited to enter their violets. Entries are Thurs., Apr. 2, noon - 8 p.m. Show chair, Lorraine Dwyer; cochair, Barbara Church.

APRIL 4 & 5 CALIFORNIA — Orange County AVS show/sale, "Violets Go To The Cats," Buena Park Mall. Apr. 4, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Apr. 5, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Open to the public. Dorothy Kosowsky and Ed Hoefer, show cochairs.

APRIL 4 & 5 NEW YORK — Long Island AVS' 38th annual show, "Colour our World," Rockville Centre Recreation & Community Center, 111 Oceanside Road, Rockville Centre. Apr. 4, 2-6 p.m.; Apr. 5, noon - 5 p.m. Show cochairs, Dolores O'Sullivan, 246-28 Deepdale Ave., Douglaston 11362, and Betty Raskopf, 3355 Bunker Ave., Wantagh 11793.

APRIL 4 & 5 FLORIDA — AVS of Pensacola's 16th

annual show/sale, "A Century of African Violets," Bayview Community Center, 19th Ave. and Lloyd St., Pensacola. Apr. 4, 2-7 p.m. Apr. 5, noon - 5 p.m. Free admission. For more information: Barbara Goebel, show chair, 433-0905.

APRIL 10-12 INDIANA — The Indiana State African Violet Society 1992 convention/show, Holiday Inn East, corner of 21st St. and Shadeland Ave., Indianapolis. Registration: Apr. 10, 6-9 p.m.; Apr. 11, 8-10 a.m. Show hours: Apr. 11, 3:30-9 p.m.; Apr. 12, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information and/or registration, contact: Carol or Larry Verrill, 10364 Orchard Park West Drive, Indianapolis 46280, 317-844-2623.

APRIL 11 & 12 CANADA — Edmonton AVS show/sale, "Violets Through Time and Space," Muttart Conservatory. For more information: Lil Bowes, show chair, 17321 60 ave, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6M-1E9.

APRIL 23-26 MISSOURI — The second annual St. Louis Flower Show, "The Secret Garden," Queeny County Park, St. Louis. Four days of display gardens, judged flower arrangements, boutiques, a special speaker series, unique social events and educational opportunities for all ages. Sponsored by the Junior League of St. Louis, all proceeds will be used to support community educational and charitable projects. Ticket prices are \$7 for adults, \$3 for children. For more information: 314-997-3407.

MAY 2 & 3 WISCONSIN — Oshkosh Violet Society's 12th annual show/sale, center court of Park Plaza Mall, downtown Oshkosh. Free admission, public welcome. May 2, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; May 3, noon - 4:30 p.m. For information: Kevin Degner, 414-426-3764.

MAY 2 & 3 PENNSYLVANIA — AVS of Philadelphia show/sale, "A Century of Violets," Plymouth Meeting Mall, upper level, Germantown Pike and PA Turnpike (Exit 25), Plymouth Meeting. Open to the public, May 2, 1-9 p.m.; May 3, noon - 4 p.m. Ray Rogers, chair. For more information: 215-836-5467.

MAY 2 & 3 UTAH — Utah AVS' 40th annual show/sale, "Discover the World of Violets," Garden Center Building, 1602 East 21 South, Salt Lake City. May 2, 1:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.; May 3, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Public invited, free admission. Imogene Hamilton, president, 381 West 400 North #10, Bountiful 84010. 801-295-9269.

JUDGING SCHOOLS

FEBRUARY 15 CALIFORNIA — The AVSA Judges Council of Northern California will be sponsoring an AVSA approved Judging School at the San Francisco County Fair Building, 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way. Anne Jantzen will be the teacher. Cost is \$5 for the audit of lecture, \$10 includes the test. Send checks by Feb. 1 to Gary R. Beck, 1155 Pine St., #4, San Francisco 94109. For more information, call 415-771-2342.

FEBRUARY 1 TEXAS — Magic Knight AVS, San Antonio, TX will hold an AVSA approved Judging School at Coker United Methodist Church. Alma S. Hummer, 1606 Sunflower Lane, San Antonio 78213 is the local chairman. Frances Young, 6109 Shadow Mountain Dr., Austin 78731 will be the teacher.

BEGINNERS COLUMN

Kent and Joyce Stork
P. O. Box 398
Arlington, NE 68002



Good Investments — Buying Violets That Suit You

Winter is a great time of year to settle in with the *African Violet Magazine* ads and mail order lists from commercial growers of African violets. It's a great time to dream about what purchases to make next. But how can anyone tell whether the plants listed are going to be really good? How do you choose? How do you avoid wasting money?

Some growers give up and just order everything. If you have the money, this can be great fun! Some growers give up and buy nothing until they see it growing in someone else's collection. That is not as much fun. There is a certain excitement in waiting for the first blossoms to form on new varieties that have been ordered sight unseen.

Smart growers learn how to read between the lines of printed descriptions and choose what they believe will be the best choices for their own particular collections. This is a fun challenge and it doesn't have to require much money, especially if you are patient enough to grow your new plants from leaf cuttings.

UNDERSTANDING THE LANGUAGE

There are a number of terms which African violet growers routinely use, which probably make no sense at all to a beginner. We'll explain some of the most common here, but for more detail, buy a *Handbook for African Violet Growers*,

Exhibitors, and Judges which is listed inside the front cover of this magazine. It contains comprehensive descriptions of leaf and blossom types, as well as terms applied to the colors of foliage and blossom. It's one of the most useful books you'll ever buy on the subject of violets!

The following are some common terms with their definitions:

Variegated - This describes foliage that has white or creamy (sometimes more golden or rosy in tone) markings on the surface of the leaves. "Tommie Lou" is frequently used to describe the pattern of variegation that edges the perimeter of the leaf. "Lilian Jarrett" is a variegation pattern that runs from the center spine of the leaf toward the edges. "Champion" variegation is less distinct and appears as a mottling of light and dark greens across the leaf. This is also known as crown variegation because it usually is most pronounced on the center leaves of a plant, with the outer more mature leaves developing a more even green coloring.

Fantasy - This describes a blossom color pattern of flecks, spots, or streaks of one color across a different underlying color. The "fantasy" hybrids tend to be a little less stable than solid color blossoms; that is, they sometimes bloom without the markings or sometimes only half of the plant will show the pattern of mark-

ings. Leaf cuttings will occasionally produce plants that do not bloom true, or in the same pattern as the parent plant.

Red - This is a real misnomer. For years, hybridizers have been trying to achieve fire engine red. When the plum-magenta shades were first developed, they were called "red." Later on, the newer burgundy and maroon shades were also called "red." Today there are a few hybrids with a deep reddish coral tone that are called "red," too. If a variety is a fairly new release, "red" probably means a burgundy or a near-red shade. If it is an older variety, it may be a reddish purple or deep fuchsia.

Geneva edge - This is recognized as the distinct white outlining around the blossom's primary color. If the outlining color is not white, the blossom will be described as "edged in ..."

Chimera - This is a rare form of plant that is characterized by a double set of genes. There are two distinct plants, genetically, inside a single plant. African violet chimeras bloom with a pin-wheel pattern; that is, each petal is striped with a distinctive second color. Chimeras do not come true from leaf cuttings, and plantlets therefore tend to be more expensive. This uniqueness can be well worth the extra cost.

Single, double, semidouble - This describes the number of petals on the blossom. Have you seen triple layers? So have we, but the description stops at double. Semidouble blossoms do not have a full second row of petals, but have a tufted petal in the center of the blossom. Many persons equate the description "single" with the tendency of the blossom to drop off the stem before drying up. Most of the newer singles being released, however, are "sticktites" that do not drop.

Miniature, semiminature, standard - This is the overall size of the plant. Minis should grow no larger than six inches across, while semiminis may grow to a diameter of eight inches. Microminiatures have recently been developed, but no specific size is guaranteed. They are expected to grow and bloom at a smaller size than miniatures. Standard plants grow larger

than eight inches. They may be "compact" and not grow larger than about 12 inches in diameter. They may be "large" and grow easily to 20 or more inches.

MATCHING THE DESCRIPTION TO YOUR COLLECTION

Hybridizers have to consider different needs as they develop new varieties, because their customers are not all seeking the same type of plant.

Persons who exhibit African violets in competition, seek plants that develop perfect symmetry of leaf pattern, bloom heavily, travel well to shows, and fit into specific color classes in a show. They oftentimes do not mind those particular varieties that do not really perform well, until reaching nearly 20" in diameter.

Persons who sell violets to the public (like grocery stores and florists) want plants that grow quickly, and thus economically, and have sturdy blossoms that don't wilt in tough conditions. When growing space is a consideration, these people want varieties that will put up a good head of bloom on plants that are not really large.

Persons who collect violets for their own pleasure, want plants that have interesting blossoms and foliage and that bloom frequently.

Advertisers in the *African Violet Magazine*, are trying to appeal to all of these people. While they are trying to market all of the varieties they list, they do try to give clues that will help you sort through the descriptions for what you are seeking.

They try to use the word "show" when describing plants that will be most suitable for exhibitors. That "show" word can also indicate that the plant grows a bit larger than average standard-sized plants.

Fortunately, there are a limited number of African violet cultivars that do fit the needs of all types of growers. These are plants that propagate easily, grow symmetrically, bloom fairly heavily when reasonably young, and yet

can be grown into large, spectacular specimens for shows. The best way to identify these is to speak to commercial growers or hybridizers, whether by phone or in person. (Most of those who are actively hybridizing violets are very busy people, and may not have the time to respond to letters that need detailed replies.) They will happily recommend the varieties they believe are the best.

SOME PITFALLS

Novelty-blossoming varieties — those that have unpredictable or unusual color pattern — are often attractive to collectors. They can be disappointing, however, because the cultivars may not be as sturdy, free-blooming, or as apt to propagate true as the less-novel types.

Award winners or other varieties pictured in the AVM are always more appealing to buyers. Often, these are wonderful plants, but there are no automatic guarantees. They also tend to be in short supply because of the huge demand generated by publicity.

Watching for the annual listing of the Best Varieties or the Honor Roll may also guide you in choosing good varieties. The Best Varieties lists the favorite plants of members across the country. It may have some old and impossible-to-find hybrids as well as some that are only found in certain regions of the country. The Honor Roll recognizes varieties that have won awards in shows. This is a great help for persons who wish to exhibit, but it may be less helpful for collectors.

A POSSIBLE SOLUTION

Since there is obviously no simple way to find the perfect plants for your own pleasure, you must be ready to make a few mistakes. Do try ordering plants from one or two companies. If you are satisfied, order from them again. You may wish to trust the company to make one or two choices for you, in addition to the other plants you order. Often the grower will send you a real gem that would otherwise have gone unnoticed.

Remember that some violet cultivars do better in specific climates. If you live in the deep (hot) south, you may need to be cautious about plants hybridized in northern climates, and vice versa. It is wise to note the name of the hybridizer, and order only a few of his/her plants at first. If those plants do well, then look for more varieties from the same hybridizer.

Finally, when trying out a new plant, give it some time. Don't decide too quickly that it is "great" or "no good." It takes time to develop a friendship, and some plants are not as likeable when immature as they will be later. Some colors or growth patterns may not be desirable until seasonal temperatures change. Sometimes an ugly duckling grows into a beautiful swan.

Try new varieties. You will have fun.



Best Interpretive Plant Arrangement at a recent Des Moines, IA show was "The Old West" by Janice Tyler.

HUMILITY

*Debbie Griffith
1212 S. Pierson Court
Lakewood, CO 80232*

In the 15 years since an aunt gave me my first tray of African violet starter plants, I've learned a lot, or so I thought. This year I discovered just how much I hadn't learned.

The year began rather hectically. We moved into a new home in January, just two months prior to the annual Rocky Mountain African Violet Council show. As I was setting up my new plant room, I remember thinking how good the plants were looking. Even a gesneriad that had never bloomed previously, showed a multitude of blossoms after four days in a dark, cool anteroom prior to finding a permanent place in the plant room. Hey, maybe there were possibilities for the show.

As January passed into February, the plants were really responding in a positive manner to their new surroundings: a plant room where I was able to achieve the unheard-of-in-Colorado humidity level of 70%. I had disbudded everything prior to the move and the plants seemed to be right on schedule for the March show.

March arrived and I was worse than an expectant mother. I "hovered" over those plants, cajoling, threatening, pruning—all in anticipation of the show. Finally, show week arrived. I had my entry sheet and tags in hand and began the process of deciding who looked good enough for show. When I finished, I had over 30 entries that I considered "good enough" for the stiff competition in our show. As I drove to the Denver Botanic Gardens, I remember thinking, "Gee, the roads are certainly rough," fearing the bumps in the road would dislodge those sinningia blossoms and violet singles that I worked so hard at achieving. Entries was lengthy, as we usually have several growers who enter large numbers of plants. At last that process was over and I could go home and relax. The fate of my plants was out of my hands and into those of the

judges.

Saturday arrived and I returned early to help judge in the show. As we have a fairly large show, there was no time to think about my own entries. After the judging was complete and we judges had been excused, I made the rounds to see how my plants had done: I was very pleased. When everything had been counted, I had five best in class plants and was sweepstakes runner-up. This was my best show ever, and I was on cloud nine. I had this show thing down pat. At the close of the show, I rounded up plants, disbudded everything there in the showroom and packed them to go home.

Looking back now, seven months later, I see that post-show time as my downfall. My normal process after a show is to disbud plants, spray all the show plants, isolate them for several weeks, repot in fresh soil and then return them to the plant stands. Since our show was only one month prior to the AVSA convention, I had several plants that I decided to take on to Santa Clara. I followed my normal procedures on the remainder of the show plants and by mid-April, returned them to the plant room.

The AVSA convention was great. My entries all won blue ribbons and I made the rounds of the sales room. Since I am a firm believer in supporting AVSA commercials, I did my share. Purchases packed, I returned to Colorado, anxious to get the new plants situated. However anxious though, I didn't throw caution to the wind, and isolated everything. Three weeks later our family left for a vacation in colonial Williamsburg. Our neighbor had volunteered to tend the plants and animals in our absence.

Back from vacation, I noticed trouble in the plant room. Many of the new plants I had bought at convention were showing problems. On closer inspection I noticed many of my other

plants were showing signs of trouble: tight centers, pronounced hairs on the leaves. Oh no, cyclamen mite? Only once before in my growing career had I experienced cyclamen mite and it wiped out my collection. With a large trash bag in hand, I began removing plants — over 60 large standards when all told. I put down leaves and trashed the plants. Suddenly, my normally crowded shelves were showing bare spots. However, I refused to toss the many new convention plants and instead, sprayed them and removed all the centers. I took three of the standard plants to our local extension service to have them tested for mites. They couldn't detect any mites, but I wasn't convinced, particularly since over the next month I threw out another 30+ plants that were showing similar symptoms.

June and July were not fun in the plant room. Nothing looked good. I began repotting and discovered soil mealy bug. Since I know better than to ask "what next," I didn't, but things go progressively worse. The temperatures outside and in my plant room soared. One day while watering, I noticed the temperature in the plant room was 91°! I don't do well in heat and the plants didn't either. There were still signs of cyclamen mite, but the soil mealy bug seemed to be in check after repotting, using diatomaceous earth.

In August, air conditioning was installed and the house once again became more tolerable. The plant room cooled down, but still the plants looked lousy. Then for the next several weeks we had company and I really didn't have time to dwell on the plants.

September came, the company left and I was determined to either cure or kill these plants. I continued repotting and then discovered thrips. (See what I mean about never asking "what next?") For the record, when someone recommends that you spray the entire plant when thrips are discovered, I'm here to tell you that's true. These thrips were dancing on the leaves, running through the soil — everywhere. Okay, this is war!! I've had enough, you guys.

Either shape up or out you go! In the past, I have used Orthene powder successfully in eradicating thrips. No time to waste: I disbudded the few plants that were blooming, sprayed and declared war. Now, I have to tell you that repotting 350+ plants is not my idea of a good time. Repotting is necessary to produce a beautiful plant and I was trying to see the light at the end of the tunnel through the despair of all these violet ailments. I even considered throwing out the entire collection and not starting over.

After a week of repotting, during which I had a lot of time to consider all the problems I'd encountered since January, I came to several conclusions. Despite all my experience, I had become careless. One additional problem I discovered while trying to determine if my original problem was indeed cyclamen mite, was that my water pH at the new place was way out of whack — 7.4. No wonder these plants looked sick — between cyclamen mite, soil mealy bug, thrips and pH imbalance, I was lucky to still have one plant. Upon moving into the new place, I had not taken the necessary cleanliness precautions. When I set up the plant stands in the new location, I didn't clean them. In addition, I normally use No-Pest Strips on the plant stands, and I had not done that after the move. Another procedure that I didn't follow was a periodic spraying — I use Raid House & Garden spray as a general preventive.

It's October now, and I have been humbled by this experience. No matter how long we've grown African violets, sometimes it helps to return to the basics. All the plants are repotted in fresh new soil. The No-Pest Strips are in place. I have thoroughly cleaned the plant stands, lights, fixtures — everything. I am still doing follow-up spraying for thrips as I do this procedure for one month. I have read and re-read articles about mites, soil mealy bug and pH.

And, for the first time in months, I'm beginning to think ahead to the March 1992 show.

H-m-m...

Affiliate 'appenings

Lyndall Owens
P. O. Box 288
Beaumont, TX 77704



(Editor's Note: After writing the "Affiliate 'appenings" column for the *African Violet Magazine*, for over thirteen years, we say farewell to Lyndall. She and her husband, Arthur, are going to be doing some traveling and possibly relocating "up north." Thank you, Lyndall, for a job well done! Have a wonderful time. Beginning in the March / April 1992 issue of the AVM, the column, "Show Talk," will begin with Darryl Hoover, 912 S. Highland Ave., Apt. C, Fullerton, CA 92632, doing the show writeups. Please make a note of his address for all of your spring shows.)

OSHKOSH VS, WI — "Picture Perfect Violets," Pat Robinson, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Optimara Ohio*, Frances Young, *Happy Cricket*, Betsy Fox; best in show, S. Rupicola, Kevin Degner; best trailer, *Happy Trails*, Cathy Heider; best semi, *Wee Be*, design sweepstakes, Pat Robinson.

MEMPHIS AVS, TN — "Violets in Fantasyland," Peggy Adamson, president. Winners: Best in show, *Petite Jewel*, 2nd best in show, *Angel Lace*, best miniature, *Petite Jewel*, best semi, *Angel Lace*, horticulture sweepstakes, Katherine Steele; best trailer, *Dazzle Trail*, best gesneriad, *Episcia Fanny Haague*, best design, design sweepstakes, show sweepstakes, Peggy Adamson; best variegated standard, *Wrangler's Pink Patches*, Iona Pair.

AV COUNCIL OF FLORIDA — "Ports of Call," Linda Marshall, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Fredette's Risen Star*, *High Tone Mama*, *Peach Brandy*, 2nd best in show, *High Tone Mama*, show sweepstakes (20 blue ribbons), Phyliss King; best in show, *Georgia Lover*, best design, "Venetian Waters," Rita Hilton; 2nd best AVSA collection, *Wee Hummer*, *Beginner's Luck*, *Ruby Slippers*, best trailer, *Adeara*, Leticia Potter; best miniature, *Mickey Mouse*, best semi, *Dolled Up*, Chris Collier; best gesneriad, *E. Tea Bells*, Ed Stern; 2nd best in design, "Shanghai, China," design sweepstakes, Bob Green.

MID-AMERICA AVS, KS — "Giving Thanks With Violets," Pat Richards, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Ms Pretty Pink*, *Mary D*, *Aubergine*, best in show, *Maverick's Tight Jeans*, 2nd best in show, *Little Pro*, best semi, *Little Pro*, horticulture sweepstakes, Pat Richards; 2nd best AVSA collection, *Rob's Silver Spook*, *Rob's Vanilla Pink*, *Rob's Shadow Magic*, Esther Edwards Wells; best design, "A Thank You Note," design sweepstakes, Sylvia Prince; best trailer, *Wee Bells*, best gesneriad, *Nauticalcalyx pemphidias*, Molly Blacketer; best miniature, *Snuggles Bear*, Sue Hill.

NUTMEG STATE AVS, CT — "Nutmeg State Fair,"

Richard Bower, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Camelot Pink*, *Ness' Viking Maiden*, *Ballet Anna*, best in show, *Firelight*, 2nd best in show, *Ness' Viking Maiden*, Ann Butler; 2nd best AVSA collection, *Becky*, *Party Animal*, *Spacedust*, best design, best miniature, *Optimara Rose Quartz*, horticulture sweepstakes, Edna Rourke; best semi, *Snuggles Little Dreamer*, Charlene Boyce; best gesneriad, *Chirita Sinensis*, Vivian Hiltz; best in show (under 12"), *Kiwi Dazzle*, Joyce Dickey.

SHO-ME AVC, KS — "Violets: Sunrise to Sunset," Pat Richards, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Crystal-laire*, *Ms Pretty Pink*, *Bisque Risque*, best in show, *Suncoast Circus Candy*, best design, "Painted Sunset," best miniature, *Ballet Snowcone*, best semi, *Winnergreen*, best gesneriad, *Sinningia Hirsuta*, horticulture sweepstakes, Pat Richards; 2nd best AVSA collection, *Optimara Sequoia*, *Optimara Oklahoma*, *Optimara Michigan*, Francis Beaver; 2nd best in show, *Just Whisper*, Sue Knobbe; best trailer, *Pixie Blue Variegated*, Doris Brown; design sweepstakes, Sylvia Prince; horticulture runner-up, Johnnie Proctor.

THOUSAND OAKS AVS, CA — "Ye Olde Candy Shoppe of Violets," Barbara Burde, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Fredette's Moonflower*, *Nortex's Snowkist Haven*, Yasuyo, best in show, *Sea Princess*, 2nd best in show, Yasuyo, best miniature, *Optimara Little Crystal*, best semi, *Sea Princess*, Carroll Gealy; 2nd best AVSA collection, *Bertha*, *Mary D*, *Fredette's Moonflower*, Marla Henderson; best design, "Candy Kisses," Barbara Burde; best trailer, S. *Pendula var. Kizarae*, Virginia Ellis; best gesneriad, E. *Sunny*, Charline Sims.

OHIO STATE AVS, "Carousel of Violets," Jan Carr, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Wrangler's Dixie Celebration*, *Sapphire Halo*, *Pink Enchantment*, best in show, *Wrangler's Dixie Celebration*, 2nd best in show, *Sapphire Halo*, best miniature, *Petite Jewel*, Anne Thomas; 2nd best AVSA collection, *Autumn Lace*, Anna Kreeck, *Apache Land*,

Mary Martin; best design, "Rose Pony," sweepstakes design, **Cathy Black**; best trailer, *Fancy Trail*, horticulture sweepstakes, **Emilie Savage**; best semi, *Swing Along*, **Judy Wegner**; best gesneriad, *Aeschynanthus Tricolor*, **Viola Tucker**.

FANCY BLOOMERS, CA — "A Harvest of Violets," Marie Beeman & Byron Borek, cochair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Garnet Halo*, *China Pink*, *Adam*, best in show, *Precious Pink*, 2nd best in show, *Garnet Halo*, best trailer, *Honeymoon Trail*, best miniature, *Precious Pink*, horticulture sweepstakes, **Marie Beeman**; 2nd best AVSA collection, *Coral Kiss*, *Fire Mountain*, *Granger's Wonderland*, **Byron Borek**; best design, "Nature's Small Rewards," design sweepstakes, **Becky Jackson**; best gesneriad, *Episcia Kiwi*, **Ken Dean**.

AVS OF DENVER, CHAPTER I, CO — "Treasures in Bloom," Carol DeNileon, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Dumplin'*, *Phantom Flash*, *Optimara Trinidad*, **Carol DeNileon**; best in show, *Foxwood Trail*, 2nd best in

show, *Tomahawk*, best design, "Golden Autumn," best trailer, *Foxwood Tail*, horticulture sweepstakes, **Nelly Levine**; best gesneriad, *Episcia Blue Nile*, **Judie Lelanne**.

AVS OF NORTH JERSEY, NJ — "Violets in the Garden State," Becky Johnson, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Majesty*, *Dance Time*, *Devil May Care*, best in show, *Dance Time*, best miniature, *Wichita Baby*, horticultural sweepstakes (50 blue ribbons), **Toni Rogan**; 2nd best AVSA collection, *Picasso*, *Ness' Silver Cypress*, *Lady Diana*, best gesneriad, *E. Moss Agate*, design sweepstakes, **Becky Johnson**; best semi, *Sugar Bear Blues*, best trailer, *Rob's Sticky Wicket*, **Bob Kurzynski**.

SOCIETE des SAINTPAULIA de MONTREAL, QUEBEC — "Violettes au Printemps," Normand Miron, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Sapphire Halo*, *Decelles Triomphe*, *Picasso*, 2nd best in show, *Decelles Triomphe*, best semi, *Beginner's Luck*, **Therese Decelles**; 2nd best AVSA collection, *Little Pro*, *Beginner's Luck*, *ACA's Merry Mary*, **Yvon Decelles**; best in show, *High Country*, **Clement**



Shown, left to right: Long Island AVS show chair, **Diane Lohan**, holding 3rd best in show, *Coral Kiss*; **Dorothy Vogt**, holding her best in show, *Paisley Print*; and **Marie Caruso**, cochair, holding 2nd best in show, *Kiwi Dazzle*.

Perreault; best design, "Jardin Printanier," best gesneriad, *Episcia Cleopatra*, Anne Herbatuck; best trailer, *Ramblin' Silver*, Amand Lemay; best miniature, *Rob's Soliloquy*, Monique Pigeon.

BELLFLOWER AVS, CA — "A Celebration of Violets," Yvette Homan, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Mini Papa*, *Kid Karla*, *Snuggles*, best in show, *Trail Along*, 2nd best in show, *Mini PaPa*, best trailer, *Trail Along*, best miniature, *Rob's Magnetic Field*, best semi, *Mini PaPa*, best gesneriad, *Petrocosmea Flaccida*, Yvette Homan; best design, "Retirement," Heather Propotnik; horticulture sweepstakes, Edward Hofer; design sweepstakes, Sheri Solan.

MISSOURI VALLEY AV COUNCIL — "Violets Around Nebraska," Kent & Joyce Stork, cochairs. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Phantom Flash*, *Tomahawk*, *Flash Fire*, best in show, *Flash Fire*, 2nd best in show, *Phantom Flash*, horticulture sweepstakes, Kent Stork; 2nd best AVSA collection, *Aubergine*, *Granger's Desert Dawn*, *Splendiferous*, Pat Richards; best design, "Nebraska City," Jeanne Cotten; best trailer, *Dancin' Trail*, best semi, *Rob's Megan Lynn*, Ann Sweeney; best miniature, *Everdina*, Jan Tyler; best gesneriad, *Aeschynanthus Lobbianus Variegata*, Doris Brown; design sweepstakes, Ethel Campbell.

HEART OF DIXIE, AL — "Africa - Violets' Eden," Kitsy Bevins, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Texas Dynamo*, *Rhapsodie Nancy*, *Optimara Louisiana II*, Keith Judy; 2nd best AVSA collection, *Kathe Denise*, *Chiffon Print*, *Gala Pink*, 2nd best in show, *Kathe Denise*, best trailer, *Lamb's Ears*, best gesneriad, *Episcia Kee-Wee*, horticulture sweepstakes, Vince Vincent; best in show, *Willadean*, Lory Collins; best design, "Diamond in the Rough," Sherri Brice; best miniature, *Moon Bright*, David Hayes.

AV STUDY CLUB OF HOUSTON, TX — "Violets Are News," Betty Moss, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Hortense Pittman*, *Petite Cher*, *Optimara Little Moonstone*, best miniature, *Hortense Pittman*, best semi, *Lipstick & Lace*, horticulture sweepstakes, Betty Moss; 2nd best AVSA collection, *Joelle*, *Mary Craig*, *Ma Gigi*, best in show, *Party Print*, 2nd best in show, *Honeybun Trail*, best trailer, *Honeybun Trail*, Gerri Goins; best design, "Holiday Makes Headlines," Mae Dennison; best gesneriad, *Nautilocalyx Pemphidius*, Laura Liggett; design sweepstakes, Jane Rexilius.

NEW YORK STATE AVS - "Celebrating with Violets," Kay Rotando, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Decelles Triomphe*, *Phantom Flash*, *Rhapsodie Claudia*, best in show, *Decelles Triomphe*, best semi, *Snuggles Rising Star*, horticulture sweepstakes, Therese Decelles; 2nd best AVSA collection, *Precious Pink*, *Little Pro*, *Beginner's Luck*, 2nd best in show, *Decelles Romance*, Yvon Decelles; best design, Carolyn Klein; best trailer, *Karen Linda*, Charles Laws; best miniature, *Midget Lilian*, Douglas Burdick; best gesneriad, *Columnnea Early Bird*, Lyon Greenhouses; design sweepstakes, Joan Stuckey.

Send Your Choices

Floyd Lawson
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21
Arcadia, CA 91107

Every year our best growers and hybridizers advise beginning, and even experienced, growers to check the Best Varieties List for the surest and most consistent plants to add to their collections. The advice is good, because the Best Variety List is the compilation of those varieties which have performed across the nation, in the many different growing conditions, and with many different approaches to growing. The Best Variety List is YOUR list of those plants which have done the best for YOU. The list only works, however, when we hear from the greatest number of "YOUs" throughout AVSA.

Here is your opportunity to make your voice heard. Which are your favorites? Which would you encourage others to buy and grow? Each vote is important; each tally is a word of encouragement to others searching for that one perfect plant to enjoy and/or to show.

Between now and April 1, 1992, every member of AVSA should take time to sit down and make a list of 25 of your favorite plants. If you are a new grower, maybe your list will be shorter; but send it anyway. We would like to have every member's opinion. The lists may be sent singly, or as a part of an affiliate's summary. Indeed, one good technique is to make compiling the list a part of one of your scheduled meetings.

If you do decide to make only one list for the club, list all plants voted on and how many votes each received.

Also enclose the total number of members voting, as well as the name of the affiliate.

Thanks to all of you for your help in making this valuable tool a reality. Please send your list to:

Floyd Lawson
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21
Arcadia, CA 91107



AVSA Building Fund

Anne Jantzen
2725 Katrina Way
Mountain View, CA 94040

Chances are you or a member of your affiliate has used the services of the AVSA office. If you haven't, chances are someone in your affiliate will need their services in the future. If so, we want to be ready to give you the best service possible.

But providing the best service takes commitment from both the AVSA office staff and the entire AVSA membership. The office staff is constantly providing their commitment as they care each year for hundreds of individual questions, orders and requests.

Won't you please make an investment in the future service of AVSA by contributing to the AVSA Building Fund? Thank you for your support.

Contributions from July 26 - August 29, 1991

August, 1991

Michael Jackson	
in lieu of speaker's fee from	
the Montgomery AVS, AL	25.00
Milwaukee AVS	10.00
Don Thornburg, CA	15.00
Faye Shirley, CA	20.00
Ann Miller	
travel expenses from Violets & Friends	
AVC, OH	15.00
North Texas AV Judges Council	
in memory of former member,	
Rosemary Robinson	10.00
North Texas AV Judges Council	
in memory of J. G. Fitzgerald,	
father of member Virginia Linson	10.00
Martha Turner	
in memory of J. G. Fitzgerald,	
father of Virginia Linson	20.00
AVS of South Bay, CA	100.00
Gregory Sedgwick	5.00
Lake Shore AVS, IL	
in memory of Earl Snyder	25.00

Total for the month - \$255.00

TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - \$74,393.24

Contributions from August 30 - September 28, 1991

September, 1991

Don Thornburg, CA	15.00
Lynn Lombard, CA	
speaker's fee from AVS Montrose	25.00
Capital City AVS, CA	
in memory of Eva Yost, four-time president	
and friend to all of us	25.00
Ruby Roloff, CA	
in memory of dear friend, Eva Yost	15.00
Union County Chapter AVSA, NJ	50.00
First AVS of Spartanburg, SC	10.00
Capital City AVS, AL	
in lieu of speaker's fee to Michael Jackson	25.00
Celine and Richard Chase, CA	
in memory of Esther Daigle	25.00
Baton Rouge AVS	
\$1.50+ per member	35.00
Orange County AVS	
in memory of member Bessie McNair,	
aunt of Ed Hoefer	15.00
Edward Hoefer	
in memory of aunt, Bessie McNair	15.00
First AVS of Wichita Falls, TX	
in honor of a job well done	10.00
Chula Vista AVS, CA	
in memory of Audrey Buchanan	
of Patches & Pots, El Cajon, CA	10.00
Carole Scelsi, CA	
in memory of Audrey Buchanan	
of Patches & Pots, El Cajon, CA	10.00
Pee Dee AVS, SC	10.00
Affiliates of the AVC of Southern California	
outside sign for our new home	200.00

Total for the month - \$495.00

TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - \$74,988.24

A Race with Tropical Rainbelt Deforestation

Mary Gall
3200 W. 82nd Terrace
Leawood, KS 66206

In a combined effort funded by an \$80,000 National Geographic Society grant the Missouri Botanical Garden and the University of Kansas, researchers are cataloging the richly diverse plant and animal life in the rain forests of the Amazon. In addition, the Missouri Botanical Garden currently has research projects in eight South American countries and five African countries, including Tanzania. The botanists have gathered 120,000 specimens each year which are sent to Missouri for further study and identification. Among the endangered and newly discovered species is *Gloxinia dodsonii*.

Scientists estimate that of the world's five to 30 million species, only 1.4 million of them have been named. More than half of the world species are contained in the tropical rain forests which cover only seven percent of the land. Twenty-five to 50 percent of these species could disappear in the next 30 years. EACH YEAR AN AREA THE SIZE OF ILLINOIS IS DESTROYED!

Jon Lovett, assistant curator of the Missouri Botanical Garden is studying the rain forest of Tanzania. Jon was in Tanzania at 6,500 feet in the Uluguru Range of mountains, clinging to a sheer rock face when he suddenly "came nose-to-leaf on the mountainside with a plant that grows on our windowsill at home. My find was one of the rarer African violets, the distinctively white-and-purple flowered *Saintpaulia goetzeana*."

In Tanzania, the government is committed to conservation of the upland forests for purposes of water conservation so that the African violets in those areas are not as endangered. However, the *Saintpaulia* species in the lowland forests are at risk because these areas are being cleared at

an alarming rate due to the population and the need for firewood, timber, and farmland.

"African Violet Action Fund"

In recent correspondence, Jon Lovett writes "For some years now I have been thinking about writing to African violet fanciers and growers to see if we could start a fund to help protect African violets in the wild. For example, a new forest national park has been proposed for the northern Uzungwa Mountains - home of a southern population of *Saintpaulia ionantha* — perhaps we could help the Tanzanian government set up this park? Another idea is to produce a poster for local schools on the importance of forest conservation and featuring the African violet. I would very much appreciate your views on whether or not we could establish an "African Violet Action Fund," and if so, how do you think is best way of going about this?"

Protected areas across the entire rain forest belt would certainly help stop the destruction. Research into the plant and animal species and their interdependence is essential. Another important aspect of conservation is discovering new food products and prescription medications that can be made from the plants, and other methods of producing jobs from the LIVING FOREST.

All it takes is money, right? So to the growers of our marvelous Gesneriad Family, what are your ideas for raising the needed funds to save the Tropical Rain Forests? Ask your local African violet or gesneriad societies to discuss the issues. Write to a gesneriad society with your ideas, or if you wish, send your thoughts to me.

Worldwide effort will be required to save the habitat of the Gesneriad Family. YOU have the

opportunity to help make a tremendous impact on our world!

References

Boyd Gibbons, "Missouri's Garden of Consequence," *National Geographic*, August, 1990.

John Lovett, "Tracing the Roots of the World's Favorite Houseplant," *International Wildlife*, March-April, 1989.

Jerri Niebaum, "Keys to the Kingdom," *Kansas Alumni Magazine*, June, 1990.

Peter T. White, "Tropical Rain Forests: Nature's Dwindling Treasures," *National Geographic*, January, 1983.

Attention: Affiliates

Mildred Schroeder

Each year one of the most popular points of interest at The African Violet Society of America's national convention/show room is the exhibit of Affiliate Publications. AVSA members from many states and other countries pore over the entries, hoping to take home new ideas for their clubs. Sharing your club's yearbook, magazine or newsletter should make your members proud. Sharing is the name of the game with African violet hobbyists.

Now is the time for you to prepare to make your entry for the Columbus (OH) convention in 1992. Please send three copies of your club's yearbook to the African Violet Judges' Council of Northern California, Enid Wood, Chairman, 45 Hallmark Circle, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6682. Your entry must be send to the chairman by February 1, 1992.

It is necessary for you to send copies of your club year newsletters or magazines to the Central Texas Judges Council, Ray Pittman, Chairman, 12406 Alexandria, San Antonio, TX 78233. Please observe the deadline of February 1, 1992.

Good luck and thanks for sharing your publication with other African violet enthusiasts.

Boyce Edens
Research Fund

Marlene Buck
P.O. Box 38
Oreland, PA 19075

Happy New Year Violet Friends!

At the top of your list
Of resolutions for 1992 —
Put a note to yourself
To send a donation
For research to BERF
Sometime in 1992

Contributors Please Note: When making a donation be sure to include the way you want your club's name listed in the AVM.

Also, be sure and list the correct city and state where your club is located.

Donations received from July 20, 1991, through September 20, 1991:

AVS of Philadelphia	25.00
Milwaukee AVS, WI	10.00
NASA AVS, Houston, TX	10.00
Myra Benton, Andalusia, AL in memory of Vince Vincent	10.00
San Fernando Valley AVS, Panorama, CA in memory of Cecilia Gonnoud	10.00
Gregory B. Sedgwick, Alexandria, VA	5.00
Covington AVS, Andalusia, AL in memory of Vincent Vincent	15.00
Wichita AV Study Club, KS in memory of our club's president, Luey Fry	20.00
Tustana AVS, Costa Mesa, CA in honor of Bessie McNair	10.00
Tustana AVS, Costa Mesa, CA	20.00
First AVS of Spartanburg, SC	10.00
Baton Rouge AVS, LA	25.00
San Fernando Valley AVS, Panorama, CA in memory of Irene Thein	10.00
Pee Dee AVS, Florence, SC in memory of Retired Colonel Walter Clyde Lowry, Jr., brother of our president, Laura Trifilett	10.00
Violets & Friends AVC, Piqua, OH	5.00

Great Discoveries for 1992 ...

Perfect gifts for yourself or someone else.



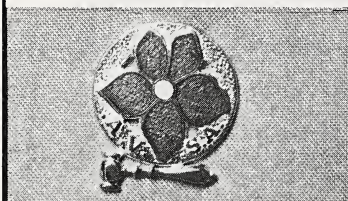
Member Pin
(201) Gold Plate - \$14.75
(222) Silver Plate - \$12.75



AVSA Charm
(203) Gold Plate - \$14.75
(224) Silver Plate - \$12.75



President's Pin
(202) Gold Plate - \$21.00
(223) Silver Plate - \$18.50



Past President's Pin or Tie Tack
(221/207) Gold Plate - \$21.00
(233/209) Silver Plate - \$18.50



President's Charm
(204) Gold Plate - \$21.00
(225) Silver Plate - \$18.50



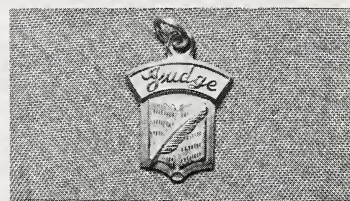
Gavel & Chain
(211) Gold Plate - \$7.50
(232) Silver Plate - \$6.00



Judge's Pin or Tie Tack
(234/236) Gold Plate - \$10.00
(235/239) Silver Plate - \$8.00



Judge's Guard Pin
(210) Gold Plate - \$12.00
(231) Silver Plate - \$9.50



Judge's Charm
(208) Gold Plate - \$10.00
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**#237 - Gold Filled
Life Member Pin
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**#238 - Sterling Silver
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Registration Report

*Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711*



A name reservation costs \$1 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1. Registration of the plant is \$5 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.

REGISTRATIONS

Violets on the Bayou AVS - Napoleonville, LA

***LOUISE CONSTANT (7542)** 8/7/91 (Violets on the Bayou AVS/Domiano) Semidouble dark pink two-tone star/darker edge. Dark green, quilted, wavy/red back. **Standard**

Frank Tinari - Huntingdon Valley, PA

***CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION (7543)** 8/16/91 (F. Tinari) Single-semidouble fuchsia-mauve ruffled. Medium green, ovate, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

Barbara Elkin - Auburn, CA

***BRYTE DAYDREAMS (7544)** 8/21/91 (B. Elkin) Semidouble chimera bright pink star/lavender stripe, purple fantasy, white wavy edge. Dark green, quilted, wavy. **Standard**

***BRYTE RAIN DANCE (7545)** 8/21/91 (B. Elkin) Double dark orchid star/lighter markings, thin dark purple edge. Dark green, plain, pointed. **Standard**

***NITE BLOOMERS (7546)** 8/21/91 (B. Elkin) Double dark fuchsia shaded star/darker tips, dark rose ruffled edge. Medium green,

pointed, ruffled. **Standard**

***OUI DO (7547)** 8/21/91 (B. Elkin) Single chimera white star/pale pink stripe. Light-medium green, plain, pointed. **Miniature**

***OUI YVONNE (7548)** 8/21/91 (B. Elkin) Single chimera ivory star/pale rose stripe. Dark green, plain, pointed, hairy. **Miniature**

***QUIET DREAMS (7549)** 8/21/91 (B. Elkin) Semidouble white star/lavender markings. TL variegated medium green and white, pointed. **Miniature**

***WAYWARD TRAIL (7550)** 8/21/91 (B. Elkin) Semidouble chimera pink pansy/dark lavender stripe, lavender fantasy. Medium-dark green, pointed, quilted, wavy/pink-red back. **Standard trailer**

Nancy Johnston - Bakersfield, CA

***BARBARA SAWER (7551)** 9/13/91 (N. Johnston) Double medium blue frilled. TL variegated dark green and rose, ovate, glossy, wavy/red back. **Standard**

Marie Burns - Baltimore, MD

***CAROUSEL LADY (7552)** 9/19/91 (M. Burns) Single chimera burgundy sticktite star/bright rose stripe. Dark green, ovate, quilted, glossy/burgundy back. **Large**

***PARTY PRINT (7553)** 9/19/91 (M. Burns) Semidouble-double pink ruffled star/lavender-blue fantasy. Medium-dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy/maroon back. **Large**

***RAIN MAN (7554)** 9/19/91 (M. Burns) Semi-

double-double dark blue large star/wide white-green edge. Dark green, quilted, glossy/maroon back. **Large**

*Catherine Carter - Jacksonville, FL

***AMETHYST CONFETTI** (7555) 9/20/91 (C. Carter) Single-semidouble chimera purple wasp/wide stripe. Medium green, heart-shaped, pointed, hairy, glossy. **Miniature**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Ralph Robinson - Tonawanda, NY

(Each of the following is preceded by the name Rob's) * Angelie * Crazy Kilt * Cream Soda * Denim Demon * Lucky Stroke * Moon Critter * Pink Fizz * Positively Peachy * Sonic Boon * Sunspot

Barbara Elkin - Auburn, CA

* Quiet Laughter

Nancy Johnston - Bakersfield, CA

* Corn's a Poppin' * Strawberry Girl

REGISTRATION CORRECTION

***BLUE BUFF** (7515) 4/1/91 (Eyerdom) - Please change to **BLUE PUFF**

**Update
Your Judges Handbook —
Order the 1990 Revised pages
today!**

Cost - \$3.50 postpaid
If you have the 1986 Handbook
with the yellow cover, you need the
1990 Revised pages.
Send \$3.50 to the AVSA Office.

Ahhh ... The Gardens

AmeriFlora '92

The spirit of AmeriFlora '92 blooms all around you in brilliant reds and purples, restful greens, refreshing pinks and blues. From the astonishing formal display surrounding the soaring NavStar sculpture, to the perfumed splendor of the Rose Garden, you'll be constantly amazed at the bounties of the land and the ingenuity of the people.

Some gardens have a special message: the **International Children's Garden**, planted with "seeds of peace" from children around the world; even the **BPS Victory Garden** will grow (and broadcast!) at AmeriFlora '92.

Many gardens are far more than plants and flowers: some foreign countries will present whole small worlds, including entertainment, restaurants and shops, all in stunning garden settings.

Serious floral enthusiasts won't want to miss **The Grand International Horticultural Exhibition and Competition**, April 20 to May 3, 1992 at AmeriFlora '92. This major international professional event, judged by a panel of the world's most respected authorities, gives you a rare glimpse of remarkable achievements in the horticultural world.

All the World's a Stage

More than 50,000 superb entertainers are part of this non-stop six month show! You'll see and hear classics of American and International entertainment — jazz and country, Sousa and symphonies, ballet, folk dancing, theater — there's always something to love on the AmeriFlora '92's five indoor and outdoor stages.

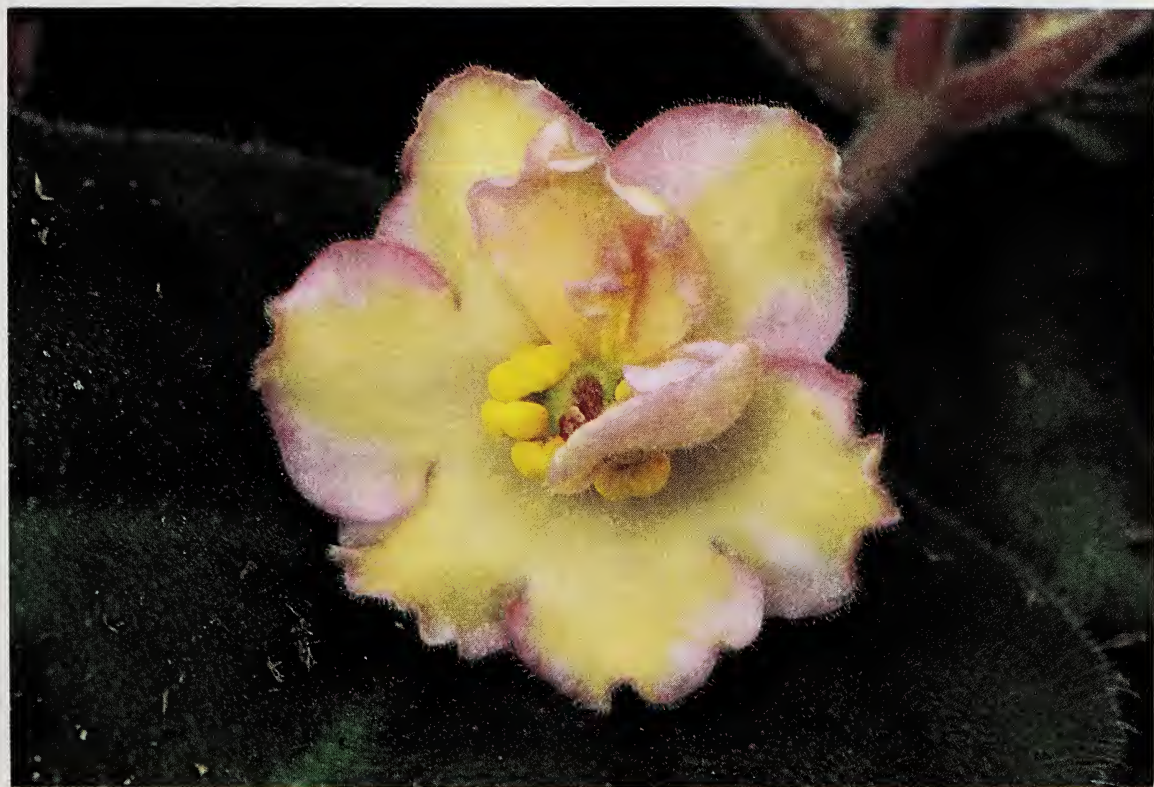
But you don't have to stop and sit down to enjoy the show: clowns, musicians and "zanies" stroll throughout AmeriFlora '92, providing perfect impromptu personal performances ... just about anytime!



HEAVENLY DAWN (top)

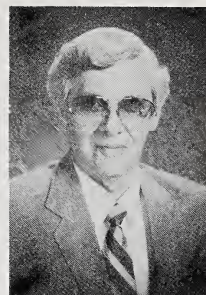
NOLAN BLANSIT

YELLOW BLEND SEEDLING



SHOWS AND JUDGES

Bill Foster
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150



How did 1992 get here so quickly? Hope you all had a nice holiday season and that you will have the best New Year ever. It is already time to start making all your arrangements for the AVSA Convention in Columbus, Ohio. Our Ohio members really have a lot of interesting things planned for us. Be sure and work on those special collections and you may win a little extra spending money.

Please add to the judges list from the September *African Violet Magazine*, these two judges that were inadvertently omitted: Mrs. Newman (Dolores) Gibbs, 608 Larue, San Marcos, TX 78666, and Ellen M. Moskal, 6619 Eastwood, Houston, TX 77021. Both these women are advanced judges and we apologize for the omission.

We have a few more corrections for the AVSA Handbook, so please update as follows:

Page 39 - in the last paragraph under Classification Committee, after the word "disqualify" change the word "entries" to "exhibits" and after the word "any" change the word "entry" to "exhibit." The sentence will now read, "While judges are not permitted to disqualify exhibits, they can eliminate from consideration for an award any exhibit not conforming to the schedule." This statement will now agree with rule #3 on page 49. Judges have nothing to do with "entries" but they do judge "exhibits."

Page 44 - under the Sample Schedule, on Class 1, add a second sentence to read, "Three species, regardless of type, may be entered as a collection." Also add this as the second sentence under AVSA Collection Awards on page 47 and on page 62 change the first sentence of the

second paragraph, under "Classification" to read, "Three species, regardless of type, may be entered in the collection classes." A few years ago, when numbers were assigned and collections were allowed, it was published that three species, regardless of type, could be entered in a collection. We just failed to clarify it in the AVSA Handbook.

Page 61 - on the last sentence on the page, please insert the word "pot" after "8".

Page 79 - under RULES FOR DISPLAY TABLES SECTION, please delete one of the "specimen" in the second sentence on item #1. Also, correct the spelling of the first "semiminiature" on the last sentence of item #1.

ATTENTION TEACHERS! When you are asked to teach a school, be sure to send *two sets of your questions and answers*, at least four weeks before the school, to: Mrs. Frances Young, 6109 Shadow Mountain Drive, Austin, TX 78731. Be sure to list the page numbers where your answer are to be found. One copy of your exam and the answers will be returned marked "approved" or corrections will be requested so the exam can be approved.

I promised you I would discuss some more of the questions that came up at the Santa Clara convention, so here they are:

Question: Should the use of large pan pots be considered as a leaf support and should points be deducted? *Try to stick to the rule of the pot being one third the size of the plant. Deduct points accordingly if it is determined the plant is overpotted.*

In judging several shows, it has been observed that Student Judges were not allowed to voice their opinion. Please clarify what Student

Judges are entitled to? On page 85 of *The Handbook*, under *Tact and Kindness*, it states that judging is teamwork. Experienced judges should not try to dominate the panel. Experienced judges should remember that they are "teaching" the students how to judge and should allow them an opinion. Because of their eagerness to learn, student judges are often more aware of new rules or rule changes than experienced judges!

Is it mandatory to include the steps of propagation in every educational exhibit? No. Many think that they should try to use all the suggestions shown on the SSA score sheet. A special exhibit on species or lighting, etc., may be used. You must also include AVSA information to earn full points toward the SSA. If judges are deducting points because every aspect of growing, propagating, and maintaining African violets are not covered in an exhibit, they are in error.

I receive a lot of correspondence and I, hopefully, send a personal reply. If anyone has sent a "concern" and not received a reply, please resubmit your letter. Chances are it was lost in the mail.

If you wish to judge or clerk at the AVSA Convention, be sure to submit the form early. Good luck with your spring shows and I will see you in Columbus!

What More Could You Ask For?

How about exquisite food from all around the world?

Share an evening with the Irish Rovers in their own Unicorn Pub.

Or enjoy the boisterous fun of Bavarian Fest-Haus ... or dinner with a lagoon view at Hawaii Kai.

How about a busy, bustling Olde World Bazaar, so you can take home samples of your favorite AmeriFlora '92 experiences!

Or ...

but maybe we shouldn't tell everything.

Needed ...

YOUR Santa Clara convention slides (or color prints)!! If you have color slides or prints of tours, workshops, banquets, meetings, registration or the beautiful show and convention, please share them!

The slides are needed to continue our traditional Thursday night slide show of the previous convention. The slides, if selected, will be used at the 1992 AVSA Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

Slides not selected will be returned to the sender. The slides used in the presentation cannot be returned as they become part of the AVSA collection.

Please send your slides to:

Jim Whitaker

2085 Leeward Lane

Merritt Island, FL 32953



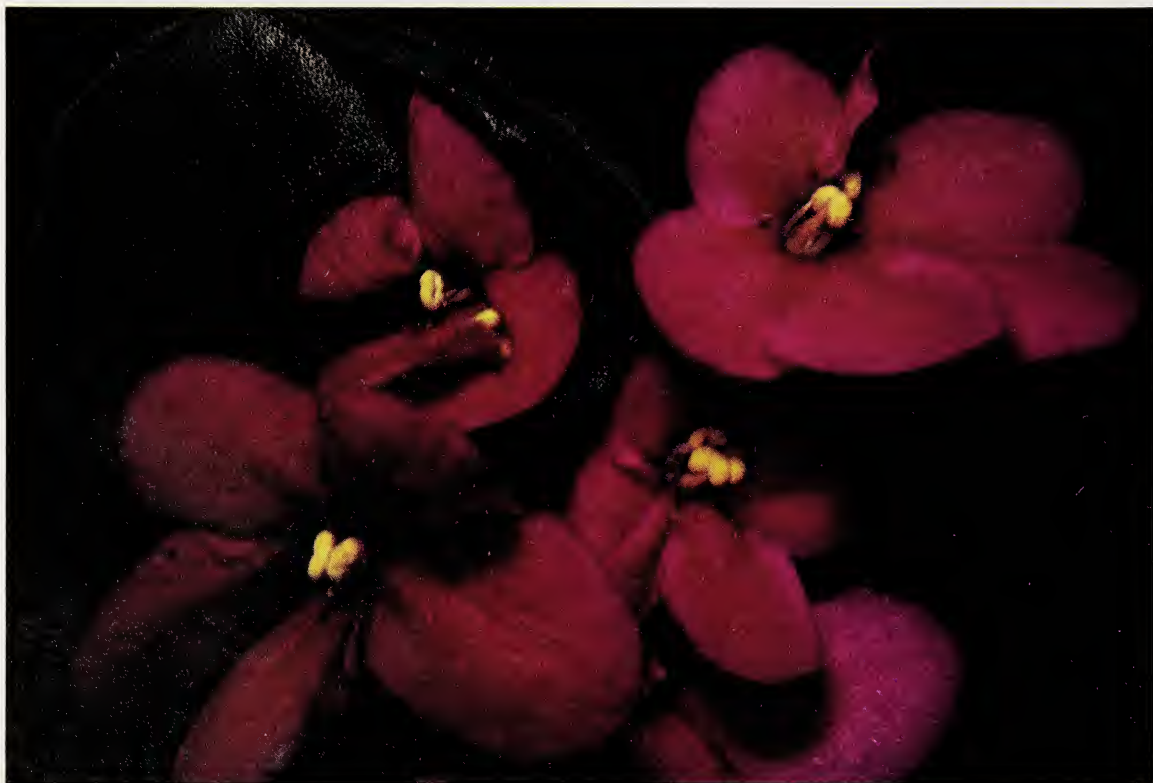
Best in show at a recent Sugarloaf Mountain VS (MD) show was Diane Good's *Tomahawk*. The theme for the show was "Reigning Violets."



WINTER GOLD (top)

CAPE COD VIOLETRY

RED SUNSET STAR



QUESTION BOX

?

*James Smith
489 Linwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209*



Question: Is there a way to keep the soil from leaching out from the bottom of the pots? I use broken pieces of pottery for drainage and to prevent the soil from leaching. The pottery doesn't leave much room for soil depth.

Answer: If your soil is made from materials that promote good drainage, the pottery or similar materials are not necessary. I use a nylon screen, cut in circles to fit the bottom of the pots, to prevent the soil from leaching. Using this screen will prevent soil from escaping.

I have also noticed that it promotes good capillary action, by helping water reach all areas of the bottom of the pot. Root formation is much better.

The screen material must be made from nylon and not metal, such as aluminum. Aluminum, or any other metal, will eventually rust. This screen material is usually sold by the roll and can be found in most department or hardware stores. It is used to replace window screens. The screens can be reused as long as they are soaked in bleach.

Question: I have noticed that few commercial advertisers in the AVM sell soil. Is there any way to get a list of commercial growers who sell soil?

Answer: I would be glad to create a list of soils available if any one would send to me the following information: your name, address and telephone number, the type of soil mix you sell (soilless, or those made from natural soil, etc.), and a detailed price list. When I have a list compiled, I will let everyone know when it is available. Looking through the AVM, I only

found three commercials that advertised soil. There are those of us who don't have the time to mix, or the place to store large quantities of soil. To buy from a reputable African violet grower, would be convenient.

So, what do you say, commercials? Send me your names. Meanwhile, if you would like to mix your own, refer to my column in the November/December 1991 issue of the AVM.

Question: I have a friend who is very concerned that I plan to leave my fluorescent lights on a timer while I go on vacation. He is afraid of a possible fire. Have you ever heard of any house fires being caused by fluorescent lights?

Answer: Since I wrote to you, I mentioned your question to several people who have used fluorescent lights for years. None of them have had an actual fire; however, one did experience a close encounter with a near disaster because of an overheated time clock. It seems that he had more lights attached to it than it could safely handle. The time clock became hot and started to melt. If the time clock had been on a carpeted floor or near drapes, a fire could have occurred. Fortunately, the problem was noticed and quickly corrected.

It is very important to use a good time clock that can handle the required electricity needed to operate your light setup. If you are unsure, contact a licensed electrician and have your light setup inspected. It is better to be safe than sorry.

Question: I have one violet that I obtained out of four that has not bloomed in a year since their purchase. It looks rather healthy and robust. I

fertilize it less frequently than my flowering violets. It is under fluorescent lights for 16 - 24 hours a day. The air feels to be drier than African violets would like, but the plant has never shown any signs of any environmental distress. The difference between this plant and my others is this one has leaves that appear to be reaching upwards. There are four rows of leaves growing from the central crown. The plant is bushy. It seems that little change has occurred over the last year with the plant. No leaves have dried, fallen down, or otherwise grown. Is there anything I should do to change the plant's environment?

Answer: Three things that I noticed in your letter that could cause you some problems:

1. You mentioned that you fertilize the "problem" plant less frequently. Why? All plants require a consistent feeding program. Use 1/4 to 1/2 tsp. of a balanced fertilizer per gallon each time you water. Start feeding as you do the other plants. When was the last time this plant was repotted? Standards should be repotted a minimum of twice a year to maintain good growth. Miniatures require repotting at least three times during the year.

2. Unless you are growing to show, fluorescent lights should burn a *minimum* of 10 to a *maximum* of 12 hours a day. Too much light may cause foliage to bunch up and/or become distorted, or turn light as if to bleach out.

3. Try to increase your humidity. Since I don't have a description of your light setup, a suggestion for correction would be difficult. My plant stands have large trays (lined with mats) into which I pour water. This helps to maintain good humidity. The plants each have their own saucer so the extra water is not a problem. The only problem that I have to watch out for is mildew. Mildew is kept in check by using Funginex or Physan 20 according to label directions, and by using a fan in the area where the plants are kept. You must have good air circulation around your plants to keep mildew in check. From my experience, it doesn't matter what the variety is as they all, for the most part, require the same

growing conditions and care.

Question: My husband recently set up some grow lights with timers. I purchased some starter plants (still planted in vermiculite/perlite) and the centers of all these plants are starting to grow very tight. I don't seem to see any bugs. Some of the plants look so tight that they don't look as if they could be separated. The larger ones are potted in ceramic self-watering pots. I use a fertilizer at the rate of one part fertilizer to three parts water. Any suggestion as to what I am doing wrong, would be appreciated.

Answer: Some reasons why the centers tighten are too much light, too much fertilizer, or a mite infestation. Mites are not easily seen without the aid of a microscope or magnifying glass. If the centers are not gray, twisted or deformed, then perhaps your problem may be that your plants are receiving too much light. You didn't mention how long you leave your lights on. As I mentioned in the previous question, the minimum is 10 and the maximum is 12 for most growing conditions. I have noticed that some varieties are more sensitive to a change to new light bulbs than others. When the bulbs are new, the light intensity is stronger for the first month and the plants have to adjust. I would suggest to decrease the amount of exposure from 8 to 9 hours and gradually increase to 10.

Under my conditions, I burn the lights for 9 hours a day and increase to 12 for the eight weeks prior to show. As far as your fertilizer usage is concerned, I hope you are using 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer to a gallon of warm water. Too much fertilizer does cause centers to tighten.

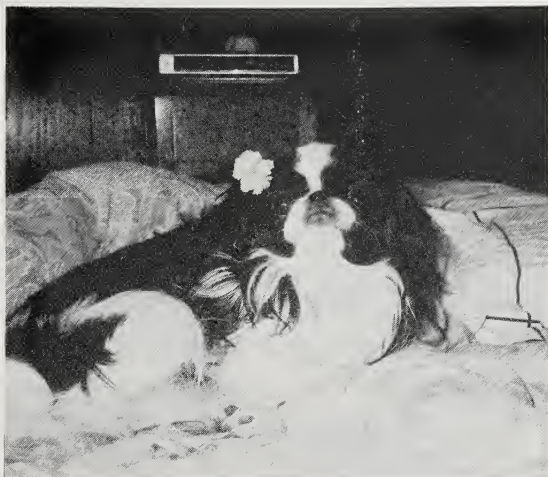
While we are on the subject of growing conditions, many of you have asked me "What are they?" I grow in the basement using fluorescent lights. I use cool-white bulbs. The temperatures range from 65 to 75 degrees in the winter, to 75 to 85 degrees in the summer. The humidity stays around 70%. All year round, I add water to my trays (lined with acrylic mats) which

provides extra humidity. Each plant is saucer watered. I use a small fan to provide the needed air circulation, which helps keep the mildew in check. My potting soil contains natural soil (not soilless) which I think gives plants some extra "meat and potatoes" that can not be obtained from a soilless mix. I use a fertilizer which has the formula of 15-30-15. About once or twice a month, (if the plants are real good), they might get a little fish emulsion as a special treat.

I do alternate waterings with a fertilizer that is balanced with a formula of 20-20-20. Super-thrive is added to the water (except when I use fish emulsion) as this tends to give a nice shine to the foliage. Each plant is repotted at least twice a year, once after show, and again around December.

It doesn't matter if the plant is in full bloom (when I am ready, they have no choice). My collection is routinely checked for pests and cultural problems each time they are watered, which is a practice that everyone should follow. Maintaining any size collection is a lot of work, but just remember, the result is equal to the amount of effort.

Good luck with your spring shows.



Everybody needs a violet pal — "Katya," an ever-faithful violet fan joins her owner, Nanette DeVoe of Clinton, Iowa when she's working on her plants. Katya particularly likes to have her fur adorned with a beautiful blossom.

Ground transportation between the airport and the Hyatt Regency Columbus is provided by:

Airport Shuttle Service

3115 E. 17th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43219
614-478-3000

To and from the airport

Downtown (Hyatt Regency)

Regular Schedule - \$6.50

Off Schedule - \$12.00

Regular scheduled hours

Monday through Friday - 8 a.m. - 11:10 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday - 10 a.m. - 11:10 p.m.

Pick ups before the regular scheduled hours will be at the "off schedule" rate for one person. If more than one person is in the van, it will be at the regular schedule rate.

Airport Shuttle Service leaves every 1/2 hour from the airport at 10 minutes after the hour and 20 minutes before the hour. Pick up is at the lowest level of the airport.

Return pick ups from the hotel are by reservation only. A two-hour advance notice is recommended.

Round trip tickets only good during regular scheduled hours.

Taxi service is also available from the airport. The cost of a taxi to the Hyatt Regency Columbus is approximately \$12.

Discover Columbus in '92



AVSA AFFILIATES

*Irene Merrell
Affiliate Chairman
W283 Hillendale Drive
Oconomowoc, WI 53066*

As I write this, it is September and the beginning of the fall shows. When you read this, the holidays will be over and we are on our way to the spring shows. I hope all are successful and you enjoyed being a part of the experience. BEWARE!! Columbus, here we come!

I would like to try something at convention this year: a very special time to meet with you so you and I can better understand each other and I can answer your questions about your schedules, Affiliate problems, memberships, starting new Affiliates, etc. I have set up a time slot for Wednesday, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. We will call it "Affiliate Rap." The first half hour will be a question and answer period of schedules, AVSA show rules, interpretation, etc., and the second half will be problem solving for Affiliates. We may not have all the answers, but maybe we can come with some new ideas or even old ideas that might help. Sharing is the name of the game. Include us in your convention schedule.

One of the rules we seem to be misinterpreting is Rule 5, p 43 - "Containers in the horticulture divisions (except for classes exhibiting trailers, unusual containers, and gesneriads) must present a uniform appearance, such as covering containers with aluminum foil (dull side out), or using the same color containers." Some schedules give the individual exhibitor an option, white or green pots or aluminum foiled (exhibitors choice?). Some state "white pots or slip covered with white pots of the same size" which would be correct. The club members should choose which one is to be used before the schedule is written and so stated in the schedule or the schedule committee should

make the decision. Self-watering (such as Moist-rite, Oyama, etc.), do not need to be covered. We try to be as lenient as possible without detracting from the appearance of the show. Our goal should always be to present the most eye-appealing exhibit to the public that we possibly can. If you are growing in green pots and slip covering with white pots, the green edge can be covered with 2-line correction tape. In one club, the classification committee provided material to cover the rim. Take a look at this year's show and make a decision for next year.

Be sure to read the Shows and Judges Column for corrections and changes in the AVSA Handbook. Bring your handbook, up-to-date. Please be aware the exhibits in the AVSA Collection classes are eligible for all awards in the show, and if a variegated plant has no variegation, reduce to a red ribbon.

NOTICE:

The Affiliate Rap - Wednesday - 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Check your convention schedule. See YOU there! (Anyone not able to attend is invited to send in your questions/comments to me so you, too, can join us).

Starting immediately, please send show write ups to: "Show Talk," c/o Darryl Hoover, 912 S. Highland Ave., Apt. C, Fullerton, CA 92632.

Introducing your AVSA nominees ...

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



A. Charles Bollar
... for President



Hortense Pittman
... for 1st VP



L. T. Ozlo, Jr.
... for 2nd VP



Esther Edwards Wells
... for 3rd VP

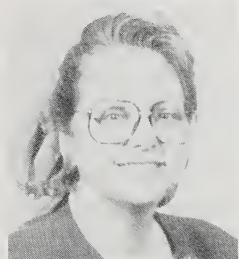
Janet Rlemer
... for Secretary



Wynne Voorhees
... for Treasurer



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Georgene Albrecht



Genola B. Cox



Janet DuCharme



Martha Dyson

**K. Evelyn
Salamanowicz**



The Nominating Committee will present the following slate for election at the Annual Meeting during the AVSA Convention in Columbus, Ohio, on Saturday, April 25, 1992:

FOR PRESIDENT — A Charles Bollar of Las Vegas, Nevada, joined AVSA in 1974 and became a member of Granada Hills, Santa Monica, Ventura, Bellflower and San Fernando (CA) affiliates.

Charles and his wife, Avanelle, spend a great deal of their time traveling all over the U.S. in their motor coach.

They often hold seminars in the coach at motorhome conventions.

Charles has served as vice president and president of the Granada Hills AVS, treasurer, vice president, and president of the Southern California Council and as convention chair for the AVSA convention in Los Angeles in 1985. Charles has also served as AVSA first, second, and third vice presidents. Both he and Avanelle are Life Members and act as missionaries for AVSA in their travels throughout the United States.

FOR FIRST VICE PRESIDENT — Mrs. J. R. (Hortense) Pittman of San Antonio, Texas, has

been a member of AVSA for over 20 years and is an AVSA senior judge.

Hortense attended her first AVSA convention in St. Louis in 1977 and has attended every convention since. She and her husband, Sundown, became interested in hybridizing through the late Howard Utz, some 13 years ago and together they own and operate "Hortense's African Violets." They were awarded the AVSA Bronze Medal for Horticultural Perfection in 1986.

She is a director for the Dixie AVS, a past president of the Lone Star AVS, the San Antonio AV Council, the Central Texas Judges Council, and the Magic Knight AVS.

She has served as an AVSA director, first, second, and third vice presidents.

Other than growing and showing African violets, Hortense and her husband enjoy doing programs on violet culture throughout the country. They judged the first AVSA show in Mexico, where they have conducted a number of workshops.

FOR SECOND VICE PRESIDENT — L. T. Ozio, Jr., of Morgan City, Louisiana, has been growing African violets for over 23 years and has been a member of AVSA since 1973. He and his wife, Yvonne, are very active in their local affiliate, the Atchafalaya VS, of which they are charter members.

Both L. T. and Yvonne are Life Members, senior judges, and both are the recipients of the AVSA Honorary One Year Membership. L. T. has served as a member of the AVSA Board of Directors, chair of the Library committee, and as third vice president. He became an AVSA teacher in 1983 and promotes the culture of African violets through programs and workshops at AVSA local and state affiliates, garden clubs, and other plant societies.

A member of Dixie AVS, he is a charter member of the Louisiana Council of AV Judges and Growers and served as charter secretary for two consecutive terms.

L. T. and Yvonne enjoy traveling. Their first AVSA convention was in Austin, TX in 1978 and they have attended every convention since.

FOR THIRD VICE PRESIDENT — Esther Edwards Wells of Liberty, Missouri, has been a member of AVSA since 1981. She is a member of Mid-America AVS and has served as president, first and second vice president and treasurer. She is currently serving her second term as president of Mid-America. Esther is a charter member of the Missouri Valley AV Council and has served as its first secretary and bylaws chair.

Esther has served AVSA as director, third vice president, and Awards committee chair. She was convention chair for the 1989 AVSA convention in Kansas City.

Esther holds an M.S. degree in Student Personnel Administration from Central Missouri State University and a B.A. in Mathematics and Psychology from William Jewell College.

She is married to Charles Wells who assists her with all of her violet projects. She is a member of the Garden Center Association of Kansas City.

FOR SECRETARY — Mrs. Donald (Janet) Riemer is from Pennington, New Jersey and has been a member of AVSA since 1964. She has been a member of the Union County Chapter since 1969 and has served in many offices for the club. Janet is a Life Member and a senior judge. She served as show vice chair and entries chair at the Philadelphia AVSA convention in 1984. She has been a member of the Tri-State AV Council since 1971 and is a great promotor of the much loved Max Maas hybrids.

Janet has served AVSA as director and secretary. She received the first Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership and has received a Continuing Service Award.

She is married and presently works in the Special Collections and Archives Department at Rutgers University.

FOR TREASURER — Wynne Voorhees of New Orleans, has been a member of AVSA for over 15 years and is a Life Member and senior judge.

He is a member of the Jefferson African Violet Association and has served in practically every office in the society. He is also a member

of the Louisiana Council of Judges and Growers and has served as secretary and program chair for this organization. He has served AVSA as Finance chair.

Wynne is presently Assistant Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer in the Correspondent Banking Division for First National Bank of Commerce. He holds a B.S. in Finance with a minor in Computer Science and a M.B.A. of Business Administration from the University of New Orleans.

FOR DIRECTOR — Georgene Albrecht of Oakdale, PA, has been a member of AVSA for 17 years and is a student judge. She holds office in The Pittsburgh VS and is a Trustee of The Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center, where she teaches floriculture. Her column, "A Family Portrait," appears in the *African Violet Magazine*.

Georgene is married, has two grown sons and is an avid gardener. She is a graduate of The Art Institute of Pittsburgh and her achievements have been commended in the Marquis Who's Who of American Women and World Who's Who of Women, IBC, Cambridge, England. She is currently serving as Education Coordinator for the docent guide program at Phipps Conservatory.

FOR DIRECTOR — Genola B. Cox of Eagle River, Wisconsin has been a member of AVSA for eight years and is a Commercial Life Member. She has been growing African violets for over 30 years and opened The Violet Express in 1986.

Although there are no AVSA affiliates in her area, Genola gives frequent talks and seminars on the culture of African violets to groups in her vicinity. She is a member of the Wisconsin Council of AVC, the Illinois AVS, Dixie AVS, NYSAVS, and the Mid-Atlantic AVS.

Genola attended Lindenwood College and Illinois Wesleyan University, majoring in art, with a minor in music.

She is the mother of two married daughters and has four teenage grandchildren.

FOR DIRECTOR — Janet DuCharme of Winter Haven, Florida has been a member of

AVSA for 13 years. A charter member of Mid-Polk AVS, she has held all offices except vice president. She is an AVSA judge and has served as the Judges chair for the AV Council of Florida, as well as secretary.

In 1987, Janet was the Entries chair for the AVSA convention in Orlando at which time entries were done by computer. Subsequently, she assisted with entries at the Dallas, Kansas City and Boston conventions.

Janet is a Registered Nurse and is employed at Winter Haven Hospital as the Orthopaedic Nurse Clinician. Bill, her husband, teaches Agriculture and Computer Applications and serves as a Major in the Florida National Guard.

FOR DIRECTOR — Martha Dyson of Berwick, Louisiana, has been a member of AVSA for 15 years and a judge for 10 years. She is a member of the Atchafalaya VS, Dixie AVS and the Louisiana Council of Judges and Growers. Martha has served as president of the Louisiana State Council, as well as her local affiliate. She is the present recording secretary of Dixie AVS and her local club. She is also editor of the Louisiana Council newsletter.

Although she grows many standard and miniature violets, she enjoys trailers most of all and has given many workshops of them. She has four children and her husband, James, is co-owner of a commercial diving company.

FOR DIRECTOR — K. Evelyn Salamowicz of Calgary, Alberta, Canada has been growing African violets about 12 years. Evelyn sets up regular displays in local African violet shows, horticultural shows and civic exhibitions, and avidly promotes the interest in the culture of African violets.

She is the president and founder of The African Violet Society of Calgary and has served in every office of this society. She is an AVSA Life Member, a member of the AVS of Canada, an advanced AVSA Judge and a member of AGGS.

Evelyn conducts presentations, workshops, lectures and seminars on African violets. She is married to Walter, an AVSA Life Member and judge, and has one daughter, Cynthia, an AVSA student judge.

Room Sharing Columbus, Ohio Convention, April 20 - 26, 1992

Room sharing has become very successful. Is room sharing for you? Are you interested in making your expenses less by sharing a room with someone? We offer this service to anyone interested.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

\$95.00 - Single/Double \$105.00 - Triple/Quad plus 15.75% room tax

Non-Smoker _____ Smoker _____ No preference _____

Age _____ Under 25 _____ 26-50 _____ 51 and over

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Any other considerations?

All requests must be made by March 1, 1992, so we may contact all interested "violet friends" and meet the deadline for hotel reservations. Please send requests to: **Ruth Warren**, P. O. Box 3664, Fall River, MA 02722 ph. 508-679-1189.

Tinara Greenhouses Offers Award

A special award of \$25, donated by Tinari Greenhouses, will be presented at the 1992 Columbus Convention to the individual who obtains the most new members of AVSA during 1991.

To be eligible for the award, send a complete list of names and addresses of the new members to Esther Edwards Wells, AVSA Awards Chairman, 948 Fair Oaks Court, Liberty, MO 64068, by January 31, 1992.

Don't Miss the 1992 Open Forum
The 8th annual Open Forum meeting of the AVSA Board of Directors will be held Thursday, April 23, 1992 at the Columbus convention.

AmeriFlora '92

Gateway to the World

No borders, no bellhops, no bother. Just all of the most marvelous sights the world's nations can concoct!

You'd think it was just an ordinary Monte Carlo streetcorner — unless you pass through the door into the spectacular garden of Prince Rainier. Then just stroll right in through the palace door: you're an honored guest of the nation of Monaco.

Next, the USSR .. discover new and surprising facets of the mysterious Land of the Bear; you'll still have time for tea and scones in the cheery English Tea Garden.

Turn the corner and you're in Japan ... or Canada ... or France or

Convention Show Schedule

AFRICAN VIOLETS — HERITAGE AND HORIZONS (A Century of Violets 1892 - 1992)

April 20 - 26, 1992

Horticulture Division - Amateur

Section I - Collections

Class 1. AVSA Collection of three registered varieties all of the same type: standard, miniature, semiminature, or trailers, either standard, miniature, or semiminature.

1 a. Holtkamp Memorial Collection of three registered Optimara® and/or Rhapsodie® plants, all of the same type: standard, miniature, or semiminature.

1 b. Dale Eyerdom Memorial Collection of three registered Granger plants, all of same type: standard, miniature, or semiminature.

Section II - Standard Plants, Single and Semidouble Blossoms

2. Blues and purples
3. Pink, dark pink, rose, and coral
4. Red, wine, fuchsia, and plum
5. Lavender, mauve, and orchid
6. White, cream, and blush
7. Two-tone and multicolor
8. Fantasy and all edged
9. Chimera

Section III - Standard Plants, Double Blossoms

10. Dark blue and purple
11. Light to medium blue
12. Light to medium pink
13. Dark pink, rose, and coral
14. Red, wine, fuchsia, and plum
15. Lavender, mauve, and orchid
16. White, cream, and blush
17. Two-tone and multicolor (all shades blue and purple)
18. Two-tone and multicolor (all shades pink and red)
19. Fantasy, chimera, and all edged

Section IV - Standard Plants, Single, Semi-

double, or Double Blossoms, Variegated Foliage

20. Blue, purple, lavender, and orchid
21. Pink, red, fuchsia, coral, and wine
22. White, cream, and blush
23. Two-tone, multicolor, and edged

Section V - Miniature Plants, Single, Semidouble, or Double Blossoms

24. Purple and all shades of blue
25. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia
26. Orchid and lavender
27. White and blush
28. Two-tone, multicolor, fantasy, chimera, and all edged

29. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage

30. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage

31. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage

32. Two-tone, multicolor, fantasy, chimera, and all edged, variegated foliage

Section VI - Semiminature Plants, Single, Semidouble, or Double Blossoms

33. Purple and all shades of blue
34. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia
35. Orchid and lavender
36. White and blush
37. Two-tone, multicolor, fantasy, chimera, and all edged

38. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage

39. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage

40. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage

41. Two-tone, multicolor, fantasy, chimera, and all edged, variegated foliage

Section VII - Trailers and species, Single, Semidouble, or Double blossoms, Any Type Foliage

- 42. Standard trailers
- 43. Miniature trailers
- 44. Semiminiature trailers
- 45. *Saintpaulia* species and natural

hybrids

Section VIII - New Cultivars and Vintage Violets

- 46. Seedlings
- 47. Sports or mutants
- 47 a. Vintage Violets - Standard violets

introduced before 1965. (Entry card must show date introduced).

47 b. Vintage Violets - Miniature or semiminiature violets introduced before 1970. (Entry card must show date introduced).

Section IX - African Violet Plant In Unusual Container

48. One African violet plant, either standard, miniature, or semiminiature in container

49. One African violet trailer in container

Section X - Gesneriads Other Than African Violets

50. Miniatures (may be displayed in regular pots or growing in clear container, cover permitted)

51. Tuberous-rooted

52. Scaly-rhizomed

53. Fibrous-rooted

54. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage

Design Division

In 1892 African violets were discovered in the eastern part of Tanzania. They were sent to Germany by Baron Walter von Saint Paul-Illaire where they were given to Dr. Hermann Wendland, Director of Royal Botanic Gardens at Herrenhausen; then to England and eventually to Armacost & Royston in California.

Section XI - Container Gardens - Miniature gardens with one or more blooming African violet plants and other growing plants. All plants must be planted in the container; no cut plant material permitted; accessories optional.

55. "In the Beginning - Mt. Tongwe" Saintpaulias are found near the summit of Mt. Tongwe in the Usambara Mountains. A natural garden representing African violets growing in their native habitat. Not to exceed 20".

56. "Tanga Territory" Botanists think that "S. Ionantha" originated in the rock faces of the Amboni Caves near Tanga. A dish garden interpreting this location in Africa where the African violet originated. Not to exceed 20".

57. "Arrival in Germany" A dish garden featuring some areas of the Royal Botanic Gardens such as winding paths, trees and groups of flowers. Not to exceed 20".

58. "California, Here We Come" Armacost & Royston, a commercial floral company in California ordered Saintpaulia seeds from Ernst Benary of Erfut, Germany and grew

African violet plants, among others, in their greenhouses. A terrarium depicting a flower garden underglass. Not to exceed 30".

Section XII - Interpretive Plant Arrangements - All entries in this section must consist of one or more blooming African violet plants, removed from their pots. Fresh cut, dried, treated or painted plant material is permitted. No artificial plant material permitted. Accessories, backdrops and bases are optional. To be staged in white niches, 28" high, 24" wide, and 20" deep (side wing is 15" deep).

59. "Marching to Georgia" The first African violet show in the U.S. was held in Atlanta, Georgia, sponsored by H. G. Hastings Company in 1946, out of which evolved The African Violet Society of America, Inc., which held the first AVSA sanctioned show there in 1947. An interpretative plant arrangement featuring some facet of Atlanta — its past or its present.

60. "Blue Boy" The most well-known of the first African violet introductions; also, the name of a famous painting by the British artist, Gainsborough. Anything goes in your own artistic endeavor.

61. "In the Pink" 'Pink Beauty' was our first pink violet. Let your imagination go "pink!"

62. "Over the Rainbow" Multicolors

and fantasies brighten our horizons. An arrangement full of color.

63. "Trail Along" Tinaris were the first to cross a standard African violet on *S. Grotei*. This hybridization was carried further by Lyndon Lyon with a cross on *S. Magungensis*. Out of these early efforts, our modern trailers emerged. An arrangement featuring an African violet trailer.

Section XIII - Interpretive Flower Arrangements - A design using fresh cut African violet blossoms* and other fresh cut, dried, treated or painted plant material is permitted. Accessories, backdrops and bases are optional. All interpretive flower arrangements shall be staged in white niches, 22" high, 18" wide, and 16" deep, with 12" side wings, except in classes 67, 70, and 71. *(Exception: Class 67, in which fresh-cut or dried blossoms may be used).

64. "Double Dip" African violets with double blossoms appear on the scene. An interpretive flower arrangement incorporating two containers, or a two-part container.

65. "Tommie Lou" A sport of "White Pride" discovered by Tommie Lou Oden showed the first lacy green and white variegation in foliage. A green and white arrangement honoring this beauty.

66. "Stars in Your Eyes" Lyndon Lyon introduced the first star-shaped hybrids from crosses made with "Star Sapphire," a sport of "Blue Boy." An arrangement featuring stars.

67. "Pinwheels Everywhere" The first pinwheel "Circus Boy" was registered in 1974, but they did not appear on the horizon in quantity until Granger Gardens brought out their varieties of "Desert Dawn" and "Valencia." A kinetic design using fresh and/or dried blossoms and accessories to create a design which suggests movement or actual motion.

68. "Pot of Gold" A favorite dream of African violet fanciers has been the "elusive" yellow violets. Nolan Blansit has realized that dream with his yellow hybrids. Fulfill your own dream with your own interpretation.

69. "Violets in Space" Who knows what the year 2000 will bring! Will violets be grown in outer space to brighten some space station colony? Transport your imagination to the 21st Century. A suspended or hanging interpretation.

70. "Neptune" An underwater design. In ancient mythology, Neptune was the King of the Sea. Some of our earliest violets had names relating to the sea. An arrangement showing some aspects of the sea.

71. "Petite Jewels" Before 1965, the "so-called" miniatures were not very attractive or genetically stable. Our miniatures today are real jewels. A mini arrangement in any colored glass container not to exceed 8" in any direction. To be staged at eye level within a niche 10" high, 10" wide, 10" deep.

Special Exhibits Division

Section XIV - Education Exhibit

72. Education exhibit (by invitation)

Section XV - Affiliate Publications

73. Yearbooks (once-a-year publica-

tions)

74. Newsletters (16 pages or less)

75. Magazines (more than 16 pages)

Commercial Horticulture Division

Section XVI - Specimen Plants

A. Collections

76. AVSA Collections

77. Holtkamp Memorial Collections

B. New Cultivars (from seed or mutation)

78. Standard African Violets

79. Miniature African Violets

80. Semiminiature African Violets

81. Trailer African Violets (standard, miniature, semiminiature)

C. Specimen African Violets

82. Standard, plain green foliage

83. Standard, variegated foliage

84. Miniatures, plain foliage

85. Miniatures, variegated foliage

86. Semiminiatures, plain foliage

87. Semiminiatures, variegated foliage

88. Trailers (standard, miniature, semiminiature)

89. *Saintpaulia* species

Horticulture Division - Amateur Rules and Regulations

1. Only amateur AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.

2. **ENTRIES** will be accepted on Wednesday, April 22, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and on Thursday, April 23 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 6:00 p.m.

If an entry is not entered by the owner, the name of the person making the entry must be on the back of the entry tag.

Entries may be checked out on Saturday, April 25, from 11:00 p.m. (after the show closes) until 1:00 a.m.

3. Only clean, healthy plants which have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months will be accepted.

4. Plants must be correctly named or they will be subject to correction by the classification committee.

5. Double potting, flared-top pots, supports, and collars will not be permitted. Any shape and type of pot (round, square, clay, plastic, Oyamas, "Moist-Rites," etc.) for specimen plants will be accepted. For uniformity, all pots must be covered with aluminum foil, dull side out, except pots containing trailers, trailing species, trailing gesneriads, and gesneriads in protective containers, which may be left uncovered.

6. An exhibitor may enter only one plant of each variety in classes 2 through 45.

7. An exhibitor may enter plants of the same variety in classes 1, 48, and 49 as those in classes 1 through 45.

8. All plants in classes 1 through 49 must be single-crown plants except trailers and some species, which may be multiple-crown. *S. Amazon velutina*, *S. Amazon grotei*, *S. Sigi Falls*, and *S. House of Amani* will be accepted in Class 45.

9. Any number of new cultivars may be entered provided they have been originated by the exhibitor from hybridization, from purchased seeds, or from

mutation; or the released rights in writing from the hybridizer have been given to the exhibitor for purchased seedlings. New cultivars may be entered by number or name, and the entry tag must indicate whether it is a new cultivar from seed or mutation. A sport (mutant) may be exhibited as a "Sport of _____." If a name has been given to the sport, the name in parenthesis may follow, such as "Sport of 'Valencia' ('Dale's Dream')." New cultivars must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show.

10. Gesneriads (other than African violets) may be exhibited in protective containers, and neutral-colored mulch may be used on the soil surface.

11. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decisions of the judges will be final. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

12. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive awards.

13. Any African violet entered in AVSA Collection, Class 1, receiving a blue ribbon, will also be eligible for other awards.

14. All African violets entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 1a., must be AVSA registered Optimara® and/or Rhapsodie® plants and must be different plants of the same type.

15. All African violets entered in the Dale Eyerdorn Memorial Collection, Class 1b., must be AVSA registered Granger plants and must be different plants of the same type.

16. Only one collection may be entered by an exhibitor in each class: AVSA Collection Class, Holtkamp Memorial Collection Class and Dale Eyerdorn Memorial Collection Class.

17. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

Design Division Rules and Regulations

1. Both amateur and commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.

2. **ENTRIES** will be accepted on Wednesday, April 22, from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. for convention work-

ers only and on Thursday, April 23 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Each exhibitor may have only one entry per class.

Exhibitors are limited to 6 entries in classes 59 through 71.

Entries in classes 55 through 58 are unlimited but reservations are required.

All entries must be the creation of the exhibitor and must be placed by the exhibitor.

Exhibitors will be permitted to work on their designs on Thursday, April 23 until 11:00 P.M., and on Friday, April 26, from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. for change of blossoms only. All exhibitors and their materials must be out of the show room by 8:00 a.m. Friday, April 24.

3. The American flag (or facsimile), artificial material, and live creatures may not be used in any design exhibit.

4. Dried, treated, weathered, and other colored plant materials may be used in all classes, except Container Gardens. African violet plants and blossoms may not be artificially colored.

5. Draping or altered backgrounds may be used in all classes except 55 through 58 and 70 and 71.

6. No part of a design may touch or extend beyond the confines of the described niche or space dimensions.

7. All entries must have a white 3" x 5" card listing the African violet varieties and other plant materials (if known) used. A written subtitle defining the exhibitor's interpretation of the class may also be included on the cards, but it is not a requirement.

8. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decisions of the judges will be final. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

9. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive awards.

10. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

11. Anyone desiring to reserve space in the design division must send a reservation blank postmarked no sooner than February 15, 1992 and sent no later than March 15, 1992 to Emilie Savage, 39 Mead Drive, Chillicothe, OH 45601. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Exhibitors who wish to cancel reservations must write to Mrs. Savage or call (614) 775-0195.

Special Exhibits Division Rules and Regulations

1. Only AVSA affiliates in good standing are eligible to enter yearbooks, newsletters and magazines.

2. Yearbooks must be mailed to the African Violet Judge's Council of Northern California, Enid Wood, Chairman, 45 Hallmark Circle, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6682. Three copies of the yearbook must be in

the possession of the judges by February 1, 1992.

3. Newsletters and magazines must be mailed to the Central Texas Judge's Council, Ray Pittman, Chairman, 12406 Alexandria St., San Antonio, TX 78233 by February 1, 1992. A complete club year of the issues must be submitted.

Commercial Horticulture Division Rules and Regulations

1. Only commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter either the Specimen Plant Section or the Display Table Section, but not both. They may also enter the Design Division.

2. For dates and times for entering exhibits, please refer to Rule 2 under HORTICULTURE DIVISION AMATEUR.

3. All plants must be correctly named, and all African violets must be single crown plants, except trailers, some species, and trailing gesneriads.

4. In the Specimen Plant Section, exhibitors may enter any number of plants in each class, but only one plant of the same variety in the same class. Exhibitors may enter plants of the same variety in the AVSA

Collection, class 76, and Holtkamp Memorial Collections, class 77, as are entered in the other classes. Exhibitors may enter either collection class or both. Plants entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection class must be AVSA registered Optimara® / Rhapsodie® plants.

5. Only plants labeled "New Cultivar" in either the Specimen Plant Section or Display Table Section will be considered for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards.

6. Entries for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards may be seedlings (plants originally from seed), sports, or mutants originated by the exhibitors or the right and ownership to them released by the hybridizer, and must not have been previously shown in

an AVSA Convention Show. Each entry must be labeled "New Cultivar."

7. A covered 6' table with three tiers will be furnished for each exhibitor in the Display Table Section.

8. Each display table shall contain 15 plants (no merchandise). Three, all of the same type, miniatures, semiminiatures, or miniature or semiminia-
ture trailers shall count as a specimen plant and be judged as one unit. The display must be predominantly (at least 75%) African violets. Other gesneriads may be included in the 15 plants and will be judged.

9. Any plant, up to a maximum of 15 plants, on a display table may be designated as competing for the AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards, either standard, semiminia-
ture, miniature and all types of trailers, either standard, semiminia-
ture or miniature.

10. No other material, such as ivy, may be used on a display table.

11. Colored lights which distort or enhance the color of the plants will not be permitted.

12. Any shape and type of pot for specimen plants will be permitted except flared top pots. Supports and collars will not be permitted. Pots in the specimen plant section must be covered with aluminum foil, dull side out. Pots in the Display Table Section do not have to be covered and may be elevated and tilted with individual display pot holders.

13. Prior to judging, signs, cards, or codes identifying the exhibitor may not be displayed on the display tables.

14. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges will be final. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

15. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive awards.

16. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

17. Commercial Silver Trophies will be awarded as merited to the exhibitors of the Display Tables receiving the first, second and third highest number of points. An Honorable Mention Rosette will be awarded to the exhibitor receiving the fourth highest number of points.

18. A Point-Score Sheet shall be given each Display Table Exhibitor to show how trophies are awarded.

19. To reserve a display table or for further information, contact J. R. (Sundown) Pittman, 12406 Alexandria St., San Antonio, Texas 78233. Phone (512) 656-0128.

Design Division Reservations

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

I would like to enter the following design classes:

(Limit six, excluding container gardens)

1. _____ 4. _____

2. _____ 5. _____

3. _____ 6. _____

Alternate Choices:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

I would like to enter container gardens in the following classes:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Entries will be accepted only if postmarked February 15, 1992 or later. No telephone reservations will be accepted.

Reservations will be on a first come basis. Please give your name, address, and telephone number so if there are cancellations or additional openings, exhibitors may be notified. Send reservations **BEFORE** March 15, 1992, to: Mrs. Emilie Savage, 39 Mead Drive, Chillicothe, OH 45621. Exhibitors who wish to cancel reservations **must write** Mrs. Savage or call (614-775-0195.

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

46th Annual Convention

Call for 1992 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of The African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be held Saturday, April 25, 1992, 3:30 p.m., at The Hyatt Columbus at The Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio, for the purpose of electing officers and transacting business that may properly come before the meeting.

Call for 1992 Board of Directors Meetings

The African Violet Society of America, Inc. Board of Directors meetings will be held Tuesday, April 21, 1992, 9:00 a.m.; Wednesday, April 22, 1992, 8:00 p.m.; and Sunday, April 26, 1992, 10:00 a.m., at The Hyatt Columbus at The Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio, for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the meetings.

Call for 1992 Open Forum Meeting

The eighth annual Open Forum meeting of the Board of Directors of The African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be held Thursday, April 23, 1992, at The Hyatt Columbus at The Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio, 5:00 p.m.

At this time, the Board of Directors of AVSA will welcome any and all AVSA members to come and present any suggestions, ideas, questions, etc., which they may have.

Registration For Judging School For New Students and Certificate Renewals

The Hyatt Regency Columbus at Ohio Center
Thursday, April 23, 1992

Columbus, Ohio
Teacher: Mary Boland

An AVSA judging school will be held on Thursday for AVSA members who wish to take their first judge's test and for AVSA judges who wish to renew their certificates. The lecture will be from 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon and *must be attended* in order to take the exam. The test begins at 2:00 p.m. The registration fee is \$7.50. AVSA membership cards must be presented at the door. Proof of three blue ribbons is required for those renewing certificates. Persons testing for the first time do not need to present proof of three blue ribbons.

Name _____ AVSA Membership # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Judging status: Student (1st exam) _____ Student (renewal) _____

Advanced _____ Auditing _____

Complete this form (or facsimile) and mail with registration fee of \$7.50 (make check payable to AVSA) and mail to Mary Boland, 6415 Wilcos Court, Alexandria, VA 22310, by March 22, 1992.

The test will be based on the 1986 AVSA Handbook, with its updated pages. This is available from the AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704. The cost of the handbook is \$9.95. The cost of the revised pages is \$3.50. Each price includes appropriate postage.

1992 AVSA Convention, Show, and Annual Membership Meeting

Please mail to:

Hyatt Columbus

at the Greater Columbus Convention Center

350 North High Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215

(614) 463-1234

April 20 - 26, 1992

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Group Number AV

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone number _____

Sharing room with _____

Make check or money order payable to **The Hyatt Columbus at The Greater Columbus Convention Center**. *Do not send currency.* To confirm your reservations, the hotel accepts only one of the following as means of payment:

___ One Night's Deposit Enclosed ___ MasterCard ___ American Express

____ VISA ____ Diner's Club ____ Discover Card

Credit Card #	Expiration Date
---------------	-----------------

Deposit refundable if reservation is cancelled 24 hours prior to arrival (phone - The Hyatt Columbus at The Greater Columbus Convention Center. Phone number: 1-614-463-1234.

Room rate: \$ 95.00 single / double
\$105.00 triple / quad
15.75% Occupancy Tax
Suite rates available upon request

Accommodations requested: _____ number of persons in room

[illegible]

___ Double (two persons)

____ Triple (three persons) Departure Date _____
(Check out by noon)

____ Quad (four persons)

Bed types available: double, king (upon request) - bed type not guaranteed.

Room rates subject to 15.75% sleeping room tax.

Reservations **must** be received by: **March 22, 1992**. The AVSA reserved room block will be released after this date.

AVSA's 46th Annual Convention & Show
"AFRICAN VIOLETS - HERITAGE & HORIZONS" — A Century of Violets
 April 20 - 26, 1992 — Hyatt Columbus at the Greater Columbus (OH) Convention Center
REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS BEFORE APRIL 8, 1992

COMPLETE ONE REGISTRATION FORM FOR EACH MEMBER AS WELL AS EACH NON-MEMBER. Following receipt of your Registration, you will receive confirmation from the AVSA Office. Non-members are entitled to participate in all activities except presentations and those requiring a membership card for entry. Current AVSA Membership Card required at Registration.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Membership # _____

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Last Name

First Name

Middle Initial

Area Code/Phone #

Street or P. O. Box

Apt. #

City/State

Zip

CIRCLE APPROPRIATE STATUS:

(A) Individual Member

(D) Associate Member

(G) Master Judge

(J) Bronze Medal Winner

(B) Life Member

(E) Judge

(H) Commercial Member

(K) Board Member

(C) Honorary Life Member

(F) Senior Judge

(I) Judging School Teacher

(L) Affiliate President

(M) Non-Member (Guest)

This is my (#) _____ Convention. Name to go on badge: _____

Is there any possibility that you might bring horticultural exhibits?

(If yes, entries information will be mailed to you.)

Yes _____ No _____

In case of emergency, who should be notified?

_____ Name

Relationship

Area Code/Phone #

TRAVEL BY:

Personal Car _____

Plane _____

Rental Car _____

Airline: _____

RV _____

Other _____

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Hyatt Columbus _____

Other _____

CONVENTION REGISTRATION:

AVSA or Associate Member

\$20.00 \$ _____

AVSA or Associate Member (after April 8, 1992)

\$35.00 \$ _____

Non-Member (Guest)

\$23.00 \$ _____

Non-Member (Guest) (after April 8, 1992)

\$38.00 \$ _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION \$ _____

MEALS:

PERSONS WISHING TO BE SEATED TOGETHER AT MEALS (LIMIT 8 PER TABLE) MUST MAIL REGISTRATIONS IN THE SAME ENVELOPE BEFORE THE APRIL 8 DEADLINE. NO EXCEPTIONS.

_____ 1 Fri.,	Apr. 24	Teachers' Breakfast (Regency breakfast)	\$11.25	\$ _____
_____ 2 Fri.,	Apr. 24	Opening Dinner (German Night)	\$27.00	\$ _____
_____ 3 Sat.,	Apr. 25	Judges' Breakfast (Regency continental)	\$ 8.50	\$ _____
_____ 4 Sat.,	Apr. 25	Commercial Breakfast (Regency breakfast)	\$11.25	\$ _____
_____ 5 Sat.,	Apr. 25	Luncheon (Chicken stir fry)	\$13.75	\$ _____
_____ 6 Sat.,	Apr. 25	Installation Banquet (chicken breast w/stuffed shrimp)	\$28.00	\$ _____
_____ 7 Sun.,	Apr. 26	Future Conventions Bkfst. (Regency continental)	\$ 8.50	\$ _____
_____ 8 Sun.,	Apr. 26	Board of Directors Lunch (cold plate)	\$13.75	\$ _____

TOTAL MEALS \$ _____

TOURS: (*meals included in the price of the tour)

___ 1	Monday,	Apr. 20	Historic Columbus & Greek Cathedral	\$21.50	\$ _____
___ 2	Monday,	Apr. 20	Columbus Metrotour *	\$41.00	\$ _____
___ 3	Tuesday,	Apr. 21	Granger Gardens & Quail Crest Farm*	\$35.00	\$ _____
___ 4	Tuesday,	Apr. 21	Malabar Farm, Malabar Inn & Kingwood Center*	\$38.00	\$ _____
___ 5	Tuesday,	Apr. 21	Potpourri of Special Places*	\$31.00	\$ _____
___ 6	Wednesday,	Apr. 22	Chillicothe, Mound City & Adena*	\$35.00	\$ _____
___ 7	Wednesday,	Apr. 22	Dawes Arboretum, Bryn Mawr, Granville*	\$41.00	\$ _____
___ 8	Wednesday,	Apr. 22	An Evening in The German Village	\$29.00	\$ _____
___ 9	Thursday,	Apr. 23	US Air Force Museum & Patterson AFB	\$24.00	\$ _____
___ 10	Thursday,	Apr. 23	Inniswood Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve	\$12.00	\$ _____

TOTAL TOURS \$ _____

PRESENTATIONS: (Please check those presentations which you wish to attend.)**Friday, April 24**

- ___ 1. 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. "New Cures on the Horizon" (pests) by Dr. Charles Cole
- ___ 2. 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. "Winners — You on the Horizon" (horticulture) by Dr. Richard Nicholas
- ___ 3. 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. "Blue was our Heritage, but is the Rainbow on the Horizon?"
by Dr. Jeff Smith
- ___ 4. 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. "Little Winners on the Horizon" (miniatures) by Patricia Champagne
- ___ 5. 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. "Trailing into the Horizon" (trailers) by Jamie Christiansen
- ___ 6. 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. "Winners — You on the Horizon" (horticulture) by Dr. Richard Nicholas

Saturday, April 25

- ___ 7. 9:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m. "New Cures on the Horizon" (pests) by Dr. Charles Cole
- ___ 8. 9:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m. "New Designers View over the Horizon" by Bob Green
- ___ 9. 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. "Beginners Forum"

Moderator: Mary Boland

Panel: Dr. Charles Cole, Kent Stork, Anne Tinari

PAYMENT: (Make checks payable to **COLUMBUS OHIO CONVENTION ACCOUNT**)

Send payment and completed registration form to:

AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609

Beaumont, TX 77704 ph. (409) 839-4725

Check one:

Total Registration \$ _____ Visa # _____

Total Meals \$ _____ Expires _____

Total Tours \$ _____ MasterCard # _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ _____ Expires _____

NOTE: Cancellations must be receivedby April 8, 1992 to be entitled
to a refund.

___ Check or Money Order enclosed

Signature (if using card)

Come Join Us Friday and Saturday Night ... At the Columbus Convention

Two of the most exciting events at every AVSA Convention are the Friday and Saturday night banquets ... and this year will be no exception!

Friday night, April 24, will be German Party Night.

The special menu, served family style at each table, will include a garden salad with a medley of dressings, sauerbraten (roast beef), bratwurst (pork sausage), and knockwurst, warm German potato salad, warm apple sauce, German noodles, German mustard and a whole lot more. A tray of miniature German pastries will also be included.

Adding to your Friday evening of great food will also be great entertainment provided by authentic German dancers and musicians ... plus quite a few of the ever popular sing-alongs.

Actor-singer Phill Wilson will be the featured entertainment for the Saturday night, April 25, banquet. Phill's first record, "One Love," was cut during the heyday of rock and roll ... the 50s. He found himself singing in the company of artists like Neil Sedaka, Rick Nelson, Ann Margaret and Floyd Kramer. He also toured the U.S. with the national touring company of "Hootenanny."

As an actor, he has appeared in over 35 television commercials and most recently appeared in the films, "Mischief," with Kelly Preston and Doug McKeon and "Teachers" with Nick Nolte and Judd Hirsch.

The dinner at this banquet

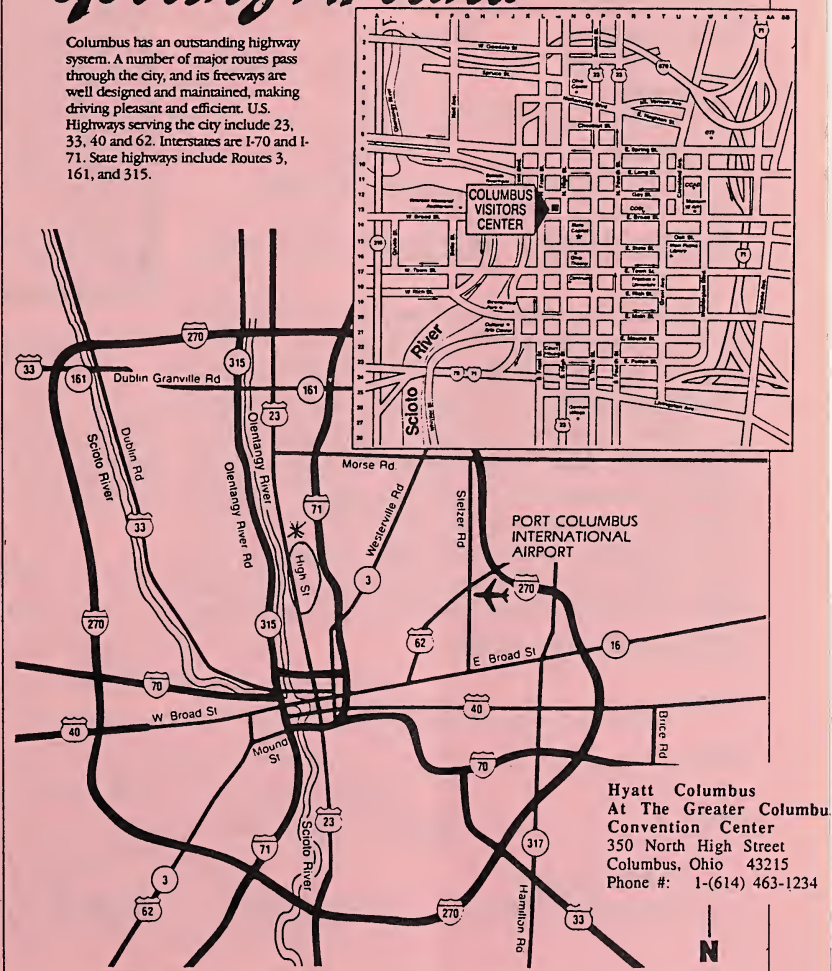
will feature "The Favorite Grill," which is a special herbed chicken breast and shrimp stuffed with crabmeat mornay. Also included is a marinated salad of Boston lettuce with marinated broccoli, cauliflower, onions, mushrooms, tomato wedges and a sour cream dressing, rice, seasoned vegetables, rolls, chocolate chip cheese cake and beverages.

The evening will also include live background and dinner music.

You won't want to miss out on all the fun — so come and join us while you are in Columbus enjoying the spectacular AVSA show, the commercial room and AmeriFlora '92.

Getting Around

Columbus has an outstanding highway system. A number of major routes pass through the city, and its freeways are well designed and maintained, making driving pleasant and efficient. U.S. Highways serving the city include 23, 33, 40 and 62. Interstates are I-70 and I-71. State highways include Routes 3, 161, and 315.



Attention: Judges

All Advanced, Senior and Master Judges are eligible to judge in the Columbus show. If you would like to judge, please complete the form below and mail to: Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150. These must be postmarked no later than March 1, 1992. If you plan to exhibit in the show, please indicate which class or classes you plan to enter. **Do not** serve on entries, classification or placement if you apply to judge. Please indicate if you are experienced in any of the listed areas. If accepted, you will receive notification of assignment. Applications received after March 15, 1992 will be filed in the event of cancellations and/or vacancies.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Classes entered _____

Type of Judge:	Experience:
☐ Advanced	☐ Minis/Semiminis
☐ Senior	☐ Trailers
☐ Master	☐ Species
☐ AGGS	☐ Design
☐ Nat'l Council	☐ Commercial

Attention: Judges Clerks

Student and Advanced Judges are invited to serve as clerks for the Columbus Show. Any vacancies may be filled by other members. This means that AVSA members may apply to serve as clerks; however, judges will be given first preference. Any positions remaining will be filled by members in order in which applications are received. All clerks will receive a letter of notification, explaining their respective duties. Mail to: Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150. These must be postmarked no later than March 1, 1992.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

☐ Student Judge
☐ Advanced Judge ☐ AVSA member

Attn:Hybridizers

*J. R. Pittman
12406 Alexandria
San Antonio, TX 78233*

It's later than you think ... time once again to get the cameras out and take slides of your new cultivars for the Columbus (OH) AVSA Convention.

I will be doing the program of new cultivars at the Saturday luncheon. This is your opportunity to show off your new introductions to the hundreds of people in attendance. This is a great chance for some free advertising.

Please send your slides to me by April 1, 1992, so I can work up the program. I would like a slide of the plant and a close-up of the blossom, if possible. Please include a description of the plant. You may send as many as you like and I will try to work them into the program.

The convention in Columbus is our time to make "violet history" and show off "African Violets - Heritage and Horizons" - (A Century of Violets 1892 - 1992). The dates are April 20-26, 1992.

Hosts & Hostesses

If you would like to help in Columbus by serving as a host or hostess in the show room, please send the information listed below, by March 31, 1992, to:

Mrs. Thelma Miller
1771 Kermit Avenue
Columbus, OH 43207

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.
46th Annual Convention & Show
April 20 - 26, 1992

Hyatt Columbus
at the Greater Columbus Convention Center
350 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-463-1234

THEME: "AFRICAN VIOLETS - HERITAGE AND HORIZONS"
A Century of Violets 1892 - 1992

Sponsored by:
OHIO STATE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

SUNDAY, April 19, 1992

3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Convention Registration
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Convention Information

MONDAY, April 20, 1992

7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Convention Registration
7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Convention Information
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tour #1 - Historic Columbus & Greek Cathedral
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tour #2 - Columbus Metrotour
12:00 n to completion Executive Board - Luncheon meeting

TUESDAY, April 21, 1992

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Convention Registration
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Convention Information
8:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Tour #3 - Granger Gardens & Quail Crest Farm
8:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Tour #4 - Malabar Farm, Malabar Inn & Kingwood Center
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Board of Directors Opening Meeting
6:30 p.m. - 10:15 p.m. Tour #5 - Potpourri of Special Places
10:15 p.m. Publications Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, April 22, 1992

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Convention Registration
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Convention Information
8:15 a.m. -to 4:30 p.m. Tour #6 - Chillicothe and Adena
8:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Tour #7 - Dawes Arboretum, Bryn Mawr and Granville
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon AVSA Information & Sales
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Convention Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Shows & Judges Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lancaster Promotional Table
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Building Fund Table
1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. AVSA Information & Sales

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	1st VP meets with Committee Chairmen
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	2nd VP meets with Committee Chairmen
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	3rd VP meets with Committee Chairmen
4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Open Forum
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Classification & Entries for convention workers ONLY
6:15 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	Tour #8 - An Evening in German Village
8:00 p.m. to completion	Board of Directors Meeting

THURSDAY, April 23, 1992

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Judging School
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Convention Registration
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Convention Information
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Commercial Sales open
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Hospitality Room
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	AVSA Information & Sales
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Classification & Entries
9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Tour #9 - The Air Force Museum
9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.	Tour #10 - Inniswood Botanical Garden
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Lancaster Promotional Table
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Building Fund Table
12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Classification & Entries
1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	AVSA Information & Sales
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Salary Committee Meeting
7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	President's Reception for members of the Board of Directors
8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	Commercial Sales Room open
8:00 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.	Social Hour & Slides
11:00 p.m.	Design work will close for the night

FRIDAY, April 24, 1992

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.	Design Exhibitors will be permitted to work on their designs for <i>replacement of blossoms ONLY</i> .
7:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.	Teachers Breakfast
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Convention Registration
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Convention Information
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Instructions for those judging and clerking for the show
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Commercial Sales open
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	AVSA Information & Sales
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Hospitality Room
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Presentation 1 "New Cures on the Horizon" (pests) Speaker - Dr. Charles Cole
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Presentation 2 "Winners on the Horizon" (horticulture) Speaker - Dr. Richard Nicholas
10:00 a.m. to completion	Judging of the show

- 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lancaster Promotional Table
- 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Presentation 3
 "Blue was our Heritage, but is the Rainbow on the Horizon?"
 Speaker - Dr. Jeff Smith
- 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Presentation 4
 "Little Winners on the Horizon" (miniatures)
 Speaker - Patricia Champagne
- 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. AVSA Information & Sales
- 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Hospitality Room
- 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Presentation 5
 "Trailing into the Horizon" (trailers)
 Speaker - Jamie Christiansen
- 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Presentation 6
 "Winners on the Horizon" (horticulture)
 Speaker - Dr. Richard Nicholas
- 4:30 p.m. to completion Photography - AVM
- 4:30 p.m. to completion Photography - Library
- 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Opening Reception (cash bar)
- 6:30 p.m. to completion Opening Dinner
 Amateur Awards to be presented:
 - Best, 2nd Best, 3rd Best in Show
 - Best and 2nd Best AVSA Collections
 - Best, 2nd Best, 3rd Best Granger Collections
 - Best, 2nd Best, 3rd Best Holtkamp Collections
 - Best Standard
 - Best Miniature
 - Best Semiminiature
 - Best Trailer
 - Sweepstakes and Sweepstakes Runner-Up in Horticulture
 Design Awards to be presented
 - Best and 2nd Best in Design
 - Sweepstakes and Sweepstakes Runner-Up in Design
 Commercial Awards to be presented
 - Best, 2nd Best, 3rd Best, 4th Best Display Tables
 - Best, 2nd Best, 3rd Best, 4th Best Horticultural Perfection
 Display Tables
 - Best African Violet from Display Tables
 - Best, 2nd Best, 3rd Best New Cultivars
 - Best in Commercial Specimen Plants
 - Best and 2nd Best AVSA Collections
 - Best, 2nd Best, 3rd Best Holtkamp Collections
- 9:30 p.m. to 12:00 midnight Show open to AVSA Convention Registrants Only
- 9:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Commercial Sales Open

SATURDAY, April 25, 1992

- 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Show Room open for photography
 (Convention Registrants ONLY)

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Commercial Members Breakfast
7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Judges Workshop & Breakfast
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Convention Registration
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Convention Information
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Show Room open to Convention Registrants & the public
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Commercial Sales open
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	AVSA Information & Sales
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Hospitality Room
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.	Agriculture Officials available to certify plant materials for transporting into controlled countries and states
9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Presentation 7 "New Cures on the Horizon" (pests) Speaker - Dr. Charles Cole
9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.	Presentation 8 "New Designers View over the Horizon" Speaker - Bob Green
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Lancaster Promotional Table
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Building Fund Table
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Presentation 9 Beginners Forum Moderator: Mary Boland Panel: Charles Cole, Kent Stork & Anne Tinari
1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Luncheon Slides of new introductions
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room open
2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	AVSA Information & Sales
3:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.	Annual Membership Meeting
5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.	PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION & HOSPITALITY HOUR Meet & congratulate the show winners during this reception (non-alcoholic punch provided) (cash bar)
6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Installation Banquet Awards to be presented: - Tinari Greenhouses Membership Award - Publications Awards - Honorary Society Awards
9:45 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.	Show Room open
11:10 p.m.	Instructions for entry check out
11:00 p.m. to completion	N. Y. State Meeting

SUNDAY, April 26, 1992

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Commercial Sales break down
7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Future Conventions Breakfast
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Entries check out
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Show Room clean up
10:00 a.m. to completion	Board of Directors Meeting
12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Luncheon

**** ALL AREAS MUST BE CLEARED BY 12:00 NOON ****

Convention Tours



Tour #1
Monday, April 20, 1992

Leave: 8:30 a.m.
Return 12:30 p.m.

HISTORIC COLUMBUS & THE GREEK CATHEDRAL

Tour Columbus with Rich Broderick whose excellent and knowledgeable commentary will entertain and educate you in this beautiful city. See such old neighborhoods as German Village, Victorian Village, and the Brewery District. At the historic Kelton House, you will be greeted by authentically costumed docents who will take you on a tour of this beautiful Victorian mansion. You will also see the beautiful Victorian Village, the Governor's Mansion and end this exciting tour at the modern, breathtaking Church of the Anunciation. This newly built multi-million dollar Greek Cathedral is filled with Middle East craftsmanship.

Return to the hotel on the bus or walk the two short blocks to the hotel. You may want to take in the historic Clock Restaurant, only a few blocks from the Cathedral. The bus driver will be glad to drop you there.



Tour #2
Monday, April 20, 1992

Leave: 8:30 a.m.
Return: 5:00 p.m.

Travel time
to first stop - 30 min.

COLUMBUS METROTOUR

***Bulletin: The Panda Bears
from China will be in residence!***

We start this wonderful day with a guided tour of the Columbus Zoo. See the largest cheetah and reptile collection in North America. The

Columbus Zoo has one of the most successful breeding programs, in the world, of lowland gorillas. "Ma Colo" and two generations of her descendants will be on view.

Next we will visit a most unusual restaurant, Biddies Coach House. This grand old house, decorated with handpainted murals and numerous antiques, was a stage coach inn back in 1830. We will enjoy a tea basket lunch with soup or salad, finger sandwiches, beverage and dessert.

After lunch we will journey to Ohio State University for a guided tour around the campus and then, as the grand finale, enter the Wexner Center for the Contemporary Arts. This architecturally controversial building is impressive and will capture your attention. There we will be treated to several interesting exhibits including, "Black and White," which traces haut couture from the 1920s to today.

Bring your cameras and wear your walking shoes.



Tour #3
Tuesday, April 21, 1992

Leave: 8:00 a.m.
Return: 5:45 p.m.

Travel time 2 hours to first stop



GRANGER GARDENS & QUAIL CREST FARM

Travel to Medina, the home of Eyerdorn's Granger Gardens. There you will have an opportunity to see, order or buy the many outstanding offspring of Eyerdorn creativity. Only half an hour from Medina is a beautiful old bank barn which has been turned into a great restaurant, The Barn, filled with wonderful antiques, quilts, old farm tools and fabulous food which is served family style. Our meal will include a choice of meats, numerous vegetables, bread, beverage and assorted cream



pies. Also on the ground of The Barn are several gift shops. Stroll around the lake, feed the ducks, view the garden or just relax.

Next we will visit Quail Crest Farm where you will see an extraordinary array of herbs (live or dried), over 300 varieties of field and pot grown perennials. Visit the gift shops containing a wonderful variety of crafts, Ohio baskets, rugs, dolls, specialty cookbooks, stained glass, pewter, garden statuary and terra-cotta planters. So, bring your checkbook and a large shopping bag on this full and exciting day.

MALABAR INN

1820 STAGECOACH TAVERN



Tour #4
Tuesday, April 21, 1992
 Leave: 8:00 a.m.
 Return: 5:45 p.m.
 Travel time
 to first stop - 1:45 min.

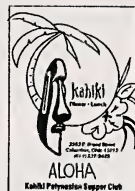
**MALABAR FARM,
 MALABAR INN
 & KINGWOOD CENTER**

Come journey with us to some of the loveliest scenery that you could ever want to see. Gentle, verdant curves, green and restful with rolling hills is the setting for the home of Louis Bromfield's Malabar Farm. This 914-acre state park is a working farm with a small beef and dairy herd. The Bromfield Mansion of 32 beautifully appointed rooms will be available for us to tour. Lauren Bacall & Humphrey Bogart were married in the garden here.

Our delightful lunch of stuffed chicken breast, salad, rolls, vegetables, beverage and carrot cake will be in the historic restored Malabar Inn. Originally an old stage coach inn built in 1820, this building, with walls two feet thick, is a place not to be missed.

After lunch we will travel to Mansfield, Ohio, and there enjoy the Kingwood Center. Its many gardens, wonderful mansion, greenhouses, fragrant and overflowing with color, present a wonderful variety of plants from all over the world. The gardens in April should be filled

with a vista of daffodils and tulips. Bring your camera and be prepared for a beautiful day!



Tour #5
Tuesday, April 21, 1992
 Leave: 6:30 p.m.
 Return: 10:15 p.m.

POTPOURRI OF SPECIAL PLACES

The stops on this tour are too interesting to be missed — each one unique and wonderful. First we will see the Topiary Park. It contains 55 larger-than-life figures, a dog and a monkey and a small lake with four topiary boats. Make sure you have your camera and lots of film.

We will next venture to the exact replica of Christopher Columbus' flagship, the Santa Maria, which will be at the riverfront for your inspection. On our way to the Cultural Arts Center we will pass Bicentennial Park, with its beautiful fountain, and bed after bed of flowers. The Cultural Arts Center, with its Italianate-style building, was once the Ohio State Arsenal. It now houses a remarkable beehive of artistic activities and displays and the view from the third floor is breathtaking.

The evening will culminate with a special dinner at the Kahiki Polynesian Supper Club. The menu includes egg roll, chicken rumaki, shrimp toast, coconut chicken, shrimp lomain, szechuan spicy beef, fortune cookie and beverage. This is the one tour you won't want to miss!



Tour #6
Wednesday, April 22, 1992
 Leave: 8:15 a.m.
 Return: 4:30 p.m.
 Travel time
 to first stop 1:15 min

HISTORIC CHILLICOTHE, MOUND CITY & ADENA

South of Columbus is some of the most his-

torically interesting land in Ohio. In Ross County, we will see the burial grounds of the pre-historic Hopewell Indians. A National Park Ranger will tell us about this ancient and mysterious culture which created a busy society with elaborate burial systems and mounds, at the time of the Egyptian pharaohs. Next we will visit "Adena," the home of Ohio's sixth governor, Thomas Worthington. His beautiful home is furnished with antiques of the 1810 period and sits on a lovely hill overlooking the Scioto River Valley. This is an architectural gem not to be missed.

Our lunch has been arranged by Emilie Savage at the Chillicothe Country Club and should prove a totally relaxing time. We will dine on Oriental chicken salad in patty shells.

After lunch we will meet the Director of the Ross County Historical Society who will escort us through Chillicothe to the many important and historical sites. Beautiful homes, restored estates, old-fashioned street lights, brick streets — Middle America at its best. A great day and still, we will get back in time to rest before the evening tour.



Tour #7
Wednesday, April 22, 1992
Leave: 8:15 a.m.
Return: 5:15 p.m.
Travel time to
the first stop - 1 hour



**DAWES ARBORETUM,
BRYN MAWR,
GRANVILLE**

Dawes Arboretum is unique. It contains the northern most swamp in the United States and one of the best Japanese gardens in the nation — plus, a hedge with letters 145 high and 2,050 feet long. There is a tower from which you may view this spectacle. Dawes also features a collection of flowering crabapple trees, beautiful gardens and is a bird sanctuary as well. Inspect the garden center. This garden contains an exten-

sive collection of bonsai and a fine gift shop which you'll want to visit. Lunch will be at Bryn Mawr, a restored Victorian mansion which was built in 1853. The colonaded entry, 12-foot ceiling, marble fireplaces and crystal chandeliers will entrance you — to say nothing of the elegant food. Lunch will be quiche, beverage and selection of desserts. Following lunch we will visit picturesque Granville with time for you to explore this tranquil village, complete with a white church steeple, charming small shops and the Old Buxton Inn. Browse, shop or stroll and relax. A truly magnificent day!



Tour #8
Wednesday, April 22, 1992
Leave: 6:15 p.m.
Return: 10:00 p.m.

**AN EVENING
IN GERMAN VILLAGE**

Did you ever have an overwhelming urge to sing jolly German drinking songs and bang your mug on the table and not have to worry about a designated driver or whether anyone else has a designated driver? Well, here it is! We are going to have a rousing good time at one of Columbus' favorite places for good food and a good time. Don't worry, it's really very sedate, and we'll have our own party room.

The menu is to be a German Village Buffet (Schmidt's own bratwurst, smoked Bahama Mamas, German potato salad, hot kraut & pork, coffee, tea, beer, various breads plus roast beef au jus and ending with the unbelievable, famous, Schmidt's jumbo cream puff. You won't believe it until you see it (pardon me, eat it)!

After this pleasurable experience, you will visit a book store that has grown like Topsy to an unbelievable 27-room storehouse of every beautiful book that you have ever dreamed of finding at a bargain. They have promised to order a whole table of books on African violets. Knowing from experience how few of those are

in print, it will be interesting to see how well they do. Come along for the fun and great food.

Wait until you taste the famous Bahama Mama sausage and the sweet kraut! It'll make you remember Columbus. Add to your anticipation by reading Mary Martin's article, "Historic Columbus Village," in the September/October 1991 issue of the *African Violet Magazine*.

Ein prosit!



Tour #9

Thursday, April 23, 1992

Leave: 9:30 a.m.

Return: 6:00 p.m.

Travel time
each way - 1:45 min

**OFF WE GO ...
INTO THE WILD BLUE YONDER
FLYING HIGH ... INTO THE SUN**

and our destination will be Fairborn, Ohio, and the Air Force Museum, repository of memories and memorabilia from the history of flight and the U.S. Air Force!

Come along for an unforgettable journey into the past of our country and the world of flight. Be prepared to lunch at your leisure in the Museum Cafe, and take in the two marvelous films at your convenience in the IMAX Theater. "The Dream is Alive," (this is a must for all on this tour), will give you the incredible sensation of flight in the space shuttle, while in "To Fly," you will travel past the speed of sound with the Blue Angels and feel the marvelous serenity of a balloon ascent over the glorious peaks of Hawaii.

At the museum there are over 200 aircraft for your inspection and artifacts from our earliest flights through space. What a day is in store for you! This is a trip that you won't want to miss. At 9:30 a.m. we'll be boarding and then up and away for landing at the Hyatt by 6:00 p.m. (Movies and lunch are on your own.)



Inniswood
Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve

Tour #10

Thursday, April 23, 1992

Leave: 9:00 a.m.

Return: 12:45 p.m.

Travel time
each way - 30 min.

**INNISWOOD
BOTANICAL GARDEN
AND NATURE PRESERVE**

Bring your camera and let a friend "shoot" you framed in the moon window of the gazebo or beside its small pool and fountain.

This great garden was founded with the gift of a 37-acre estate. Later 54 more acres were added to the initial gift.

It is a wonderful bird sanctuary among magnificent beech-maple forests and gardens of extraordinary beauty.

The Park District has added a beautiful herb garden partly planned and wholly maintained by the Central Ohio Chapter of the Herb Society of America.

The original rock garden was renovated this year.

You will delight in the many kinds of wildlife which reside within this lovely garden — including deer who love the buds in the rose garden.

Future Convention Dates

Columbus, OH - April 20 - 26, 1992
Lancaster, PA - April 19 - 24, 1993
Denver, CO - May 23 - 28, 1994
St. Louis, MO - May 22 - 27, 1995
Atlanta, GA - May 23 - 27, 1996

1992 Columbus Convention/Show Awards

Esther Edwards Wells, Awards Chairman

SOCIETY AWARDS

Amateur Division

- Best African Violet - Silver Cup and Rosette
- 2nd Best African Violet - Award of Merit Rosette and \$15
- 3rd Best African Violet - Honorable Mention Rosette and \$10
- Best AVSA Collection - Gold Rosette
- 2nd Best AVSA Collection - Purple Rosette
- Best Miniature - Rosette
- Best Semiminiature - Rosette
- Best Standard - Rosette
- Best Trailer - Rosette
- Best Other Gesneriad - Rosette
- Sweepstakes in Horticulture - Rosette
- Sweepstakes Runner-Up in Horticulture - Rosette

Design Division

Amateur and Commercial

- Best Design - Silver Cup and Rosette
- 2nd Best Design - Rosette
- Sweepstakes in Design - Rosette
- Sweepstakes Runner-Up in Design - Rosette

Commercial Specimen Plants

- Best African Violet - Silver Cup and Blue Rosette
- Best AVSA Collection - Gold Rosette
- 2nd Best AVSA Collection - Purple Rosette

Commercial Display Tables

- Best Display Table - Silver
- 2nd Best Display Table - Silver
- 3rd Best Display Table - Silver
- 4th Best Display Table - Honorable Mention Rosette
- Best Horticultural Perfection - Blue Rosette
- 2nd Best Horticultural Perfection - Red Rosette
- 3rd Best Horticultural Perfection - White Rosette
- 4th Best Horticultural Perfection - Lavender Rosette
- Best African Violet - Rosette
- Best New Cultivar - Blue Rosette
- 2nd Best New Cultivar - Red Rosette
- 3rd Best New Cultivar - White Rosette
- Best New Cultivar from display tables or specimen plants - Plaque

Affiliate Yearbooks

- Best Yearbook - Blue Rosette and \$50
- 2nd Best Yearbook - Red Rosette and \$35
- 3rd Best Yearbook - White Rosette and \$25
- 4th Best Yearbook - Lavender Rosette and \$10

Affiliate Newsletters (16 pages or less)

- Best Newsletter - Blue Rosette and \$50
- 2nd Best Newsletter - Red Rosette and \$25

Affiliate Magazines (more than 16 pages)

- Best Magazine - Blue Rosette and \$50
- 2nd Best Magazine - Red Rosette and \$25

SPECIAL AWARDS

Amateur Division - Specified Awards

		Donated by
Best Granger Collection	\$300	Friends of Dale Eyerdorn
2nd Best Granger Collection	\$200	Friends of Dale Eyerdorn
3rd Best Granger Collection	\$100	Ohio State AVS
Best Holtkamp Collection	\$300	Holtkamp Greenhouses
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$200	Holtkamp Greenhouses
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$100	Holtkamp Greenhouses
Best Vintage Violet Class 47a.	\$10	Emilie Savage
Best Vintage Violet Class 47 b.	\$10	Emilie Savage

Specific Varieties

		Donated by
Dawn Michelle	\$25	Patches & Pots
Emilie Savage	\$10	Emilie Savage

Everdina	\$10	Hans & Everdina Inpijn
Happy Cricket	\$10	Town & Country AVS
Judy Partain	\$10	Judy Partain
Lucy Locket	\$15	Mary's Violet Joy
Mickey Mouse	\$10	Hans & Everdina Inpijn
Ness' Viking Maiden	\$10	Midland Violets
Ohio Heritage	\$25	Ruby Cox
Petite Jewel	\$10	Magic Knight AVS
Precious Pink	\$10	J. R. & Hortense Pittman
Pride of Columbus	\$50	J. R. & Hortense Pittman
Rob's Fiddle Faddle	\$20	Ralph Robinson
Sugar Bear Blues	\$10	Midland Violets
Sundown Trail	\$10	J. R. & Hortense Pittman
White Cameo	\$25	Tinari Greenhouses

OTHER AWARDS

\$100 donated by Lone Star AV Council

\$75 donated by Springfield AVC (OH)

\$50 donated by AVS of Minnesota, Upper Pinellas AVS

\$30 donated by Ohio State AV Judges Council

\$25 donated by Alpha AVS, AV Study Club of Houston, AVS of Canton (3), AVS of Philadelphia, Baltimore AVC (2), Central Texas Judges Council, First AVS of Dallas, First AVS of Wichita Falls, First Nighter AVS of Dallas, Metropolitan St. Louis AVC, Mid-America AVS, Missouri Valley AVC, New Jersey Council of AV Judges, Quad City AVS, Spring Branch AVC, Tristate AV Council, David Buttram

\$20 donated by AVS of Lower Bucks County, Bellflower AVS, Yvonne & L. T. Ozio, Jr.

\$15 donated by Bluff City AVC, Central Florida AVS, Flowertown Violet Club, New York City AVS, Inc., St. Louis AV Judges' Council, Bill & Paula Foster, Leonard & Elaine Re

\$10 donated by Amethyst AV Club (2), AV Hobbyists of Sacramento, AVS of Greater Kansas City, AVS of San Francisco, Brew City Violeteers, Cen-Tex Rainbow AVC, Fort Worth AVS, Hoosier AVS, NASA Area AVS, Nite Bloomers AVS, Pied Pipers AVS, Tampa AVS (5), Thousand Oaks AVS, Town & Country AVS, Union County Chapter (2), Unpredictable AV Club, Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs, Carroll Gealy, Edward E. Hoefer, Alma S. Hummer, Judy Partain, Sue Ramser, Pat Richards, Libby A. Watkins

Rosette donated by AVS of Western New York

Commercial Division - Specified Awards - Commercial Specimen Plants

Best Holtkamp Collection	\$300	Holtkamp Greenhouses
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$200	Holtkamp Greenhouses
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$100	Holtkamp Greenhouses

Other Awards - Commercial Specimen Plants

\$10 donated by Joan Halford, Tri-City AVS, The African Violetry

Specified Awards - Commercial Display Tables

Best Display Table	\$300	Columbus AVS
2nd Best Display Table	\$200	Ohio State AVS
3rd Best Display Table	\$100	Cincinnati AVS
Best African Violet	\$25	Parmatown AV Club
Best New Cultivar	\$25	Parmatown AV Club
2nd Best New Cultivar	\$25	Parmatown AV Club
3rd Best New Cultivar	\$25	Town & Country AVS
Best Horticultural Perfection	Silver	New York State AVS



mini - tidbits

Florence Naylor
2647 Harbor Boulevard
Ventura, CA 93001

Happy New Year to you all! It's that time once again to vote for your 25 favorite miniatures and semiminiatures.

If you are sending a collective list from one club, please indicate how many people should be included in the vote count, i.e., are their 10 people submitting lists or 25 in your group? Are the votes registered as one vote one person or 3 out of 15? Although this is not essential, it makes the tallying of votes more representative.

I don't mind having individual lists that can be collected at your meeting and sent together in one envelope. I also welcome individuals sending in their own lists independently, if you don't belong to a club, don't live near an organized club, or, missed the meeting when they collected the lists.

Last year we had a good cross section of the country, included in the results. This year, I'd like to hear from every state in the union and any other country that would like to participate. It is a good way to let you know what is most popular among growers everywhere and serves as a guide for the new growers and hobbyists as to what they might expect to perform well for them.

Your 25 favorite miniatures and semiminiatures can include trailers as well as any single crown plant. The deadline for inclusion in the 1992 survey will be March 31, 1992. Any entries after the deadline will be saved and applied toward the 1993 survey.

I have had some interesting responses to the "Picture Library." Yes, I will accept slides as

well as any photographs you may wish to contribute to the library.

At this point, I am still trying to organize a suitable format that will be conducive to updating and reproduction electronically, so any originals you have will be welcome.

The idea will be to convert the photographs and slides of miniatures and semiminiatures into electronic pictures which can be viewed on a computer screen or television monitor. This way, if you have a question as to what a specific variety looks like, you will be able to call up a picture of that plant variety and know whether it looks like anything you have seen.

It would be nice to have every existing variety included in this "Picture Library." If you raise any of the older varieties, I am particularly interested in preserving pictures of them before they become extinct. When browsing through your collection of photos, if you happen to have one or two that you can spare, please put your name, address, variety name, and hybridizer (if known) on the back and send it or them to me. I will also accept negatives if you wish to keep the original photograph.

As noted in my last column, miniatures have existed all along. They occur naturally in species, *S. shumensis* (single crown) and *S. mangungensis* var. *minima* (for trailers). Early varieties were usually singles, which dropped blooms rather quickly and easily. They normally had only two blooms to the bloom stalk, which didn't always open at the same time for a show. It was common to have only 3 - 4 open blooms on a plant for show. Many of the early

varieties had girl foliage which grows in natural light more easily than tailored foliage in a symmetrical pattern. The redeeming quality was interesting blooms that kept people growing the minis, as well as size.

Some of the traits of the most popular varie-

ties are stick tight blossoms, lots of blooms per bloom stalk, and symmetrical growth habit. We've come a long way from the species, but it would be a shame to not have a record of the many varieties between early varieties and now.

A Partial Glossary of African Violet Terms Part II

Pauline Bartholomew
"Growing To Show"

(See November/December 1991 for part one.)

PLANT TYPES: The following types of African violets are recognized by AVSA and are being bred by hybridizers specifically as one type or another. For instance, a variety listed as single-crown, even though it tends to sucker, can't be grown and entered in a show as a trailer.

Miniature: A small-growing single-crown plant with small leaves. In judged shows, the foliage of single-crown miniatures may not measure over 6" in diameter (blossoms extending over the edge of the foliage do not count in this measurement).

Semiminiature: A compactly growing single-crown plant with small leaves. In judged shows, the foliage of single-crown semiminiatures may not measure over 8" in diameter (blossoms extending over the edge of the foliage do not count in this measurement).

Single-crown: A plant with a single center of growth from which foliage emanates in a rosette form.

Standard: A single-crown plant with large leaves and which, at maturity, exceeds 8" in diameter. The MVL lists "standard" as over 8" and "large" as over 16". "Large" is merely an extra dimension of "standard" and is used only for descriptive purposes by hybridizers. There is no differentiation between the two in judged shows; they are both

classified as standards.

Trailer: A plant genetically disposed to produce multiple crowns. African violet trailers are classified as miniature, semiminiature or standard. There are two forms of trailers: those with elongated stems that trail down around the pot, and those with short stems whose foliage forms bushy mounds. There are no size limits for trailers.

PROPAGATE: To produce, or cause to produce, new plants.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY: The ratio, expressed as a percentage, of the amount of water vapor actually in the air to the total amount present during saturation at the same temperature.

ROOTED CLUMP: A term used by commercial growers to refer to a group of plantlets attached to the leaf cutting ("mother" leaf).

ROSETTE: A cluster of leaves radiating symmetrically from a central stem. In reference to awards, a ribbon decoration gathered or pleated in a circular pattern and usually with one or more streamers attached.

(Continued on page 46)



NESS' SIZZLIN' PINK

Midland Violets

Jean Ness

Third Best New Introduction

Boston - 1990

SEEDLING: A plant grown from seed. After the plant has been propagated vegetatively from a leaf cutting, the resulting plants are no longer regarded as seedlings.

Semidouble blossom: See BLOSSOM TYPES

Semiminiature: See PLANT TYPES

Single blossom: See BLOSSOM TYPES

Species: See FAMILY

SPHAGNUM MOSS: A long-fibered moss in a less decomposed state than that of sphagnum peat moss. It is often used in its natural, unmilled state as a growing medium for plants such as bromeliads.

SPORT: A plant that shows a marked change from the parent plant. See MUTATION.

Standard: See PLANT TYPES

Star: See BLOSSOM TYPES

STARTER PLANTS: A term used by commercial growers to refer to immature plants in small (usually 2-1/2") pots.

STEM: The main stalk or trunk of a plant.

Striped blossom: See BLOSSOM COLORS

SUCKER: The beginning of a new plant which forms near the base of a plant or in the lower axils. For judging purposes in an African violet show, a sucker is not counted as such unless it shows four leaves and no sign of a bud. A sucker on a single-crown specimen plant disqualifies it from being entered in a show since the plant is no longer considered to have a single-crown.

SYSTEMIC: A chemical substance which, when absorbed by plant tissue, causes the tissue to be poisonous to certain pests and diseases. Soil drenching is the usual method of induction.

SYMMETRY: The degree of a perfect circular pattern of foliage; overlapping of foliage evenly spaced

around the main stem of the plant; straight petioles with each layer of leaves progressively larger than the preceding layer.

TISSUE CULTURE (inflorescent culture): Test tube propagation using a culture medium and producing hundreds of plants from a minute piece of plant tissue.

Trace elements: See FERTILIZER

Trailer: See PLANT TYPES

Tuft: See BLOSSOM TYPES

VERMICULITE: A sterile, lightweight, brownish, soft-textured, pebbly material. It is manufactured from crushed mica ore expanded to many times its original size through intense heat.

VARIETY: Through common usage, the terms "cultivar" and "variety" have the same meaning. See FAMILY for reference to species varieties.

VARIEGATED FOLIAGE: Foliage in which green (or various shades of green) is combined with white and/or one or more other colors. These colors may include shades of cream, tan, pink, and rose. The different patterns of variegation may appear in random form or along leaf edges. 'Tommie Lou' (named for one of the earliest, but most distinctive of the variegated foliaged plants) and 'Lilian Jarrett' are types of variegation that tend to retain their coloration and remain stable if proper cultural procedures are followed and proper conditions maintained. The foliage of "crown variegation" varieties turns green as it progresses to the outer layers of the foliage. The variegation is usually restricted to the center, or crown, of the plant. This type of variegation is not stable and may turn all green in hot weather (because of increased release of nitrogen in the soil) or a change in pH.

WETTING AGENT: A solution that is mixed with water to reduce the surface tension that causes water to bead. The amounts recommended in this manual are for a concentrated brand; check the labels for recommended amounts.

WICKING: Any material used to draw water from a reservoir into the soil of a potted plant.

African Violets Under Lights

Marie Burns

8624 Delege Road, Baltimore, MD 21237

The ability of the African violet to bloom well under artificial lighting makes it the most popular houseplant today. Violets grown under fluorescent lights are actually superior to their windowsill grown cousins. Since African violets are grown for their beautiful and varied blossoms and flowering is triggered by light, it is safe to say that lighting is the most important aspect of violet culture.

There are many excellent professionally manufactured light carts and portable fixtures available, but your pocketbook can determine your individual set up. A four-foot fluorescent fixture with two tubes is the most readily available and economical to use. Try to purchase the ceiling type fixtures which have a five-inch spacing between the tubes. These give a more even distribution of light than the narrower shop-type light. Suspend your fixture 10-12 inches above the foliage of standard size African violets. Provide a few inches of height adjustment if possible. A double tube four-foot fixture will adequately light a four-foot x one-and-one-half foot area. If you hang two fixtures side by side you can extend this growing area due to the overlap lighting created.

The lights are turned on from 11-14 hours each day. Growth rate and the number of blossoms increase as does the light hours. Most growers decrease light during hot summer weather and increase with the beginning of fall. Although you will see a dramatic improvement in your violets, do not be tempted to give more and more light. Cultural problems such as bunching and tight centers will develop if the plants are given too much lighting. It is also important to allow at least eight hours of darkness. This enables the plants to utilize the food manufactured during the light hours.

To further automate your set up, purchase a timer. This will allow you more freedom while providing the plants with consistent illumination.

It is possible to achieve excellent results using various tube combinations. My preference is one cool white tube and one Gro-Lux wide

spectrum tube in each fixture. To keep them at peak output, the tubes are wiped clean every two months and replaced every 12-18 months on a rotating basis. Never replace both tubes at the same time since this may bleach the leaves of your violets. If it is necessary to replace both tubes at once, decrease your light hours for a week or two. This will lower the initial light level and accustom the violets to the increased illumination.

Every African violet plant is an individual and you must locate the best placement for each variety, under lights. If you are observant, the plants will tell you their preference. Violets receiving too much lighting will develop tight centers, brittle foliage and short petioles. The leaves tend to turn down and hug the pot—it's almost as if the plant is trying to remove itself from the light. On the other hand, insufficient light will give sparse bloom, spindly growth, long petioles and an overall leggy plant.

The light intensity is greatest directly under the center of the tubes and lessens toward either side. You can further control light levels by either raising or lowering the fixture and by increasing or decreasing the light hours.

There are a few general rules for plant placement. Normally, variegated leaf varieties require more light, as do most plants with dark leaves and blossoms. The light green leaves with white or light pink flowers seem satisfied grown toward the edges. With a little experimenting, it is possible to locate the correct place for every plant in your collection. Allow a few weeks for each location because results are not instantaneous. Also, for symmetrical plants, it is important to turn your violets, even under fluorescent lighting, since they tend to draw toward the center of the fixture.

African violets grown under fluorescent lighting require the same general care and culture as those grown in natural light. Now that you are providing ideal light conditions for 11-14 hours each day, you must adjust the other growing factors such as water and fertilizer to meet the increased demand of the plants.



DOROTHY PARKER (top) SPRING MEADOW (below)

GRANGER GARDENS
Medina, Ohio



A Family Portrait

Georgene Albrecht
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071



Achimenes 'Desiree'

Few gesneriads fill a hanging basket more beautifully than *Achimenes*. A 12-inch basket brimming with dozens of huge violet, red, salmon, white or yellow blooms will create a show stopper in any fall flower show. The scaly rhizomes multiply so rapidly that it doesn't take long to have many baskets. They winter well in a cool, dry storage area and will be content in the same soil for two to three years. If storage space is a problem, remove the rhizomes and store them in plastic bags with barely damp vermiculite away from heat but above 50°.

Achimenes are native to the West Indies, areas of Central America and northern South America. Their popularity flourished from the mid 1800s until the turn of the century. Then around 1940, new hybridization created an ever increasing interest. Porch plants are very popular now that the country and Victorian themes predominate. The deep violet flowers provide perfect contrast with any light green foliage plants like variegated ivy, *Caladium* or *Begonia*. They look wonderful planted with or placed beside *Asparagus densiflorus sprengeri*, *plumosus* or *myersii*.

From July to September these jewels produce blooms in profusion. All colors compliment *Fuchsia triphylla* hybrids. In fact, some of the colors have the same tonal value. This past summer, I placed some rhizomes in the same basket with *Fuchsia* and they did very well; however, I waited too long to plant them and they were too low in the basket. Next year I will

start three rhizomes in 2-1/4" pots around March, keep them in my light garden and then transplant them among other plants later when it warms outside.

Achimenes 'Purple King' remains a favorite just because it is so very easy to grow and multiply. The front of my house faces north where window boxes provide color above the shade-loving *Rhododendrons* and *Azaleas*. These boxes were filled with a maroon *Coleus*, salmon seed *Geranium*, variegated *Vinca* and above-mentioned *Achimenes*. Just smashing!

Polymer granules helped hold and release



water through another drought. These moisture retaining products are a must have for planted urns and baskets. Do not use more than the package directions specify. If *Achimenes* dry out too many times they will lose their lower leaves and go into dormancy. In their natural habitats they are required to adapt for survival.

They can be reproduced by tip or leaf cuttings, division of each rhizome by scale or propagules which form on the stem during stress. Mine do not seem to set seed but I've seen the seed offered from seed sources. Publications tell us that it is possible to grow a plant from each one of the scales; however, these individual scales grow very small, spindly plants. It seems a better idea to start with just a few whole rhizomes in a four-inch pot which in a year's time will give enough for an eight-inch pot. Now, there are exceptions — some hybrids will not give good increase, others outdo themselves. Just remember that toward the end of their growing cycle they would benefit from extra phosphorus.

A good friend gave me two miniatures from Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, *A. 'Tiny Blue'* and *'Tiny Pink.'* They both have very serrated leaves about 1-1/4 inches long and from 1/4 to 1/2 inch wide. The blooms are a full inch wide and they produce about three per leaf node. These are very late in awakening and late to bloom. The reddish stems stay compact as they branch to about 8 inches by October. Before it becomes 50° at night, we bring them into the light garden where they bloom for another month or so. Withhold water from them to start dormancy.

To revive any of them, about March, start watching for threadlike growth. Each variety seems to have an individual alarm clock. Refrain from planting them until you see growth because the rhizomes may rot if watered while dormant. I have read that they are very susceptible to air pollution, yet mine do not seem to be affected by anything but cool air and an occasional aphid. Pests are not attracted to them. Some varieties may have to be pinched back in order to make a full basket. Root the cuttings

right in the same basket and most likely they will have at least one rhizome by the end of season.

Achimenes have compact, upright and trailing growth habit no matter how much or little light they are given. The variety 'Milton' has thick, almost woody stems with one to two inches between each leaf node. Most have single flowers but there are semidouble and full double blooms, too. The only semidouble to grow well for me is *A. violacea* 'Semi Plena,' from 1858, which has extra red-purple petals at the corolla. It is also very compact and needs a small pot. My variety that gets the most attention from visitors is a Worley hybrid, *A. 'Desiree,'* which has full, salmon red flowers produced on dark, foliage having deep red reverses. A huge basket of this plant will "knock the socks off" any Garden Club Federation judge in fall flower shows. The blooms resemble double miniature roses and they hold on for a long time. The plant seems to delay bloom until each stem has four or five blooms ready to open at the same time. There are four to five buds at each leaf axil. It's a real showy plant that the public thinks is an *Impatiens*. When you fill out an entry tag, be sure to write the whole name, not just the abbreviation.

To put the rhizomes into dormancy, chill the soil slightly, withdraw water, remove all but one inch of the stems and remove any old foliage that is on the soil. After you have checked for pests in the pot, store them in a cool, dry place. Mark them well so that they are not discarded.

About fertilization — do not apply your timed-release fertilizer until they have at least two mature leaves. The soil will have enough to start them. When you apply the fertilizer, scratch it into the soil so that the sun does not decompose it. In addition, when you add the polymer moisture granules, mix them evenly in the soil, don't scratch them into the surface because this will tend to keep the fine roots near the soil surface. If this is the second year for soil in a basket, take a thin dibble, such as a bamboo

skewer, and poke the fertilizer down into the dry soil. This does not damage many rhizomes and allows air and water into the soil mass after winter storage. Add a drop of detergent to tepid water when you soak the soil mass for the first time, then rinse. This breaks the surface tension.

Try them, you'll want more. Park Seed usually offers them in their catalog, but if you want named varieties, please see the list of sources published in my column July/August 1990. Les Violets Natalia, P. O. Box 208, Beecher Falls, VT 05902, catalog \$2.00, should be added to that list.

Memory Lane

Anne Tinari, AVSA Membership and Promotion Committee Chair, has rekindled some great memories by reading my "Restoration" article in the September, 1991, *African Violet Magazine*. This article was about our new Pittsburgh Violet Society. From the beginning, Frank and Anne Tinari banked a lot of memories for The African Violet Society of America, Inc. Some are documented in her book, "Our African Violet Heritage," which she graciously sent to the Pittsburgh club for their library. Thanks, from all of us, everywhere.

Anne remembers the AVSA's ninth convention being here in Pittsburgh at the William Penn Hotel. The local society, which was rich in membership, hosted a beautiful show where

she was on the team that judged the seedlings. A Mr. Johnson was President and the convention chairs were Mrs. William Douglas and Mrs. Ross Harness. One of the bus trips was to the nearby Phipps conservatory, where I am a docent. She remembers meeting Mr. Frank Curto, the Director at that time. He was a very famous man because of his exposure as a television personality speaking about horticulture and promoting the conservatory.

So, here we are, almost 40 years later, adding another chapter. I am pleased to report that the Pittsburgh Violet Society is exactly one year old this week of September, 1991, and that we have about 21 members. Anne has encouraged us to use every AVSA tool at our disposal, and we will. We have used the slide library, affiliate packages, show packets and, most notable, the *African Violet Magazine*. Just yesterday, I received a letter from a woman who received the magazine in the Philippines where her husband was stationed at Clark Base. When it was closed, they were sent state side to Coraopolis, PA, only a few miles from where we have our local meetings at the Northland Public Library, 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. She said I should have published this for readers.

If you are traveling in this area, join us. A good violet time is guaranteed.

Proposed Amendments to AVSA Bylaws

The Bylaws Committee has submitted the following amendments to be voted on at the annual business meeting, Saturday, April 25, 1992, in Columbus, Ohio.

Article IV Section 1 - Insert after "Elected Officers" and before "The" "The Elected Officers of this Society shall fulfill the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority of the Society." Then the sentence would read: Elected Officers: The Elected Officers of this Society shall fulfill the duties prescribed by these

bylaws and by the parliamentary authority. The Elected Officers of this Society shall be:

Rationale: To clarify the intent that the duties of the officers are described in the bylaws and by the parliamentary authority of the Society.

Article IV Section 1a - Insert between "committees" and "during": "chairmanships" Then this part of the sentence would read: fill all vacancies in committee chairmanships during his/her term:

Rationale: Then the president only appoints the chairmen of committees.

Article IV Section 1a - Strike out "vice president" between "designate a" and "to travel" and insert: "member of the board of directors." Then the sentence would read: The president may designate a member of the board of directors to travel on his/her behalf if he she deems it expedient and in the best interest of the Society.

Rationale: There could be a member of the board of directors in the area that could perform the necessary duties of the Society, thereby eliminating travel expense.

Article IV Section 2 - Strike out "fifteen (15) nor less than fourteen (14)" and insert "nine (9)." *Proviso: That the amendment shall not go into effect until the close of the 1992 annual business meeting, and further provided that they shall not affect regional directors already elected.

Rationale: To reduce the board of directors to a manageable size.

Article V Section 2 - Strike out between "conclusion of the" and "at which the" "meeting" and insert "convention." The sentence would then read: The terms of elected officers shall be one (1) year or until their successors are elected and each term shall begin at the conclusion of the convention at which the officers are elected.

Rationale: This states more clearly that the officers assume their duties at the close of the convention.

Article V Section 2 - Strike out "51%" and insert "half." The sentence would then read: In the event of the resignation or death of the president, the first vice-president shall assume the duties of the president, and should that officer serve more than half of the term it shall be counted as a term.

Rationale: Better terminology.

Article V Section 5a - Add after "past president shall serve on the committee": "and no two members shall be from the same state" strike out "more than one term" and insert

"consecutive terms." Then the sentence would read: "No more than one (1) past president shall serve on the committee and no two members shall be from the same state. No member except the chairman shall serve consecutive terms on the committee and the chairman shall not serve consecutive terms as chairman."

Rationale: Select a nominating committee from a wider region being assured no two will be from the same state. Clarifying the term of the chairman.

Article V Section 5d 2 - Strike out "five (5)" and insert "three (3)." *Proviso: That the amendment shall not go into effect until the close of the 1992 annual business meeting, and further provided that they shall not affect regional directors already elected. The sentence would then read: Select three (3) nominees for director from the file maintained by the nominating committee chairman, attempting to maintain a geographic balance among all directors.

Article V Section 5d 3 - Strike out "it is published" and insert "the membership is notified." Then the sentence would read: Submit the slate to the president in sufficient time so that the membership is notified forty-five (45) days prior to the annual business meeting."

Rationale: To clarify the intent of the membership being notified.

Article VII Section 1 - Strike out "fifteen (15)" and insert "nine (9)." *Proviso: That the amendment shall not go into effect until the close of the 1992 annual business meeting, and further provide that they shall not affect regional directors already elected. The sentence would then read: The board of directors: shall consist of elected officers, the nine (9) directors, the immediate past president, and the chairmen of the standing committees.

Rationale: To reduce the board of directors to a manageable size.

Article VII Section 4 - Becomes "Article VIII"

(retitle) "Executive Committee." Strike out between "consists of" and it shall "elected officers and the immediate past president" and insert: "President, first vice president, second vice president, third vice president, secretary, treasurer, immediate past president and the chairman of the finance committee." Then Article VIII would read: Executive Committee Section 1. The Executive Committee: shall consist of president, first vice president, second vice president, third vice president, secretary, treasurer, immediate past president, and the chairman of the finance committee; and it shall have the authority to conduct any necessary business of the Society during the interim between meetings of the board of directors including authorizing emergency action.

Rationale: By naming the members of the Executive Committee makes it clear who is on this committee. The chairman of the finance committee was added for additional input on AVSA finances. (Renumbering following articles).

Article IX Section 1d - Strike out "Boyce Edens Research Fund: shall be responsible for the collection of all donations to this fund and acknowledgements of such donations."

Rationale: This committee has the same functions as Special Committees, Booster Fund and Building Fund. This would change the status of this committee to be the same as the above mentioned committees, a Special Committee.

Article IX Section 1b - Strike out "Cumulative Index: shall be responsible for compiling an index from the AVM and forwarding same to the editor, meeting publication deadlines.

Rationale: This recommended amendment came from the chairman and the bylaws committee recommends the adoption of this amendment.

Article IX Section 1m - Strike out "Miniature and Semiminiature Cultivars: shall be re-

sponsible for coordinating with the plant registrar and compiling lists of miniatures and semiminiatures for publications."

Rationale: The function of this committee as stated above was transferred to the Master Variety List Committee in a motion adopted at the Santa Clara convention board of directors meeting. (Motion was presented by the chairman.)

Article IX Section 2 - Strike out: "appointed" insert "created." Strike out: "during the term" add: "the chairman shall be appointed by the president, and the chairman shall appoint his/her committee subject to the approval of the president." Then this sentence will read: Special Committees: may be created by the president with the approval of the Executive Committee. The chairman shall be appointed by the president and the chairman shall appoint his/her committee subject to the approval of the president.

Rationale: This would follow the same procedure that Standing Committees follow.

Article XI - Strike out: "or revised" then the sentence would read: These bylaws may be amended at any annual business meeting or special meeting of the membership by a two-thirds (2/3) vote provided that the changes have been:

Rationale: To amend includes from one word added or deleted to a complete revision.

Article XIII - Strike out entire article.

Rationale: This article is in The African Violet Society of America, Inc. Articles of Incorporation.

The Bylaws Committee recommends that the committee be authorized to correct numbers, punctuation, cross references, and make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intention of the members.

That the adopted bylaw amendments become effective at the close of the 1992 convention.



Janice Tyler is shown holding best in show, *Suncoast Paisley Print*, at a recent Des Moines, IA show. Janice also won: best interpretive plant arrangement, best trailer, *Teeny Bopper*, best club collection, best non-blooming gesneriad, *E. Spooky*, 2nd best AVSA collection, *Ontario*, *Mauna Loa*, *Paul's Pizzazz*, best container garden, best mini, *Lullaby*, and best species, *S. tongwensis*. The theme for the show was, "Violet Stampede."



SONJA'S VIOLETS

P.O. Box 83, Omaha, AR 72662

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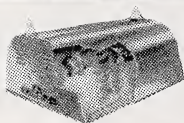
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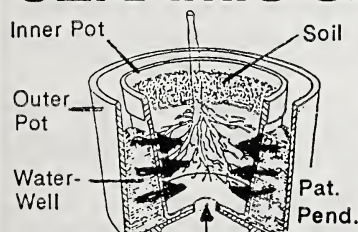
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PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Inch Size	Color	Type	Number of Pots				
			10	20	50	100	500
2-1/4	Wh or Gr	RS or SQ	1.20	2.10	4.50	8.00	31.00
2-1/2	Wh or Gr	RS or SQ	1.40	2.35	5.00	9.00	37.00
3	Wh or Gr	RS/RT/SQ	1.70	3.15	7.00	13.00	55.00
3-1/2	Wh or Gr	RT or SQ	1.95	3.60	8.25	15.00	65.00
4	Wh or Gr	RS/RT/SQ	2.40	4.25	9.50	17.25	76.00
4-1/2	Wh or Gr	RS/RT/SQ	2.60	4.75	10.50	19.00	86.00
5	Wh or Gr	RS or RT	3.10	5.70	13.00	23.00	105.00
6	Wh or Gr	RS or RT	3.85	6.75	15.50	29.00	130.00
6-1/2	Wh or Gr	RT	4.35	7.75	17.75	33.00	
7	Wh or Gr	RS	7.10	13.50	31.25		
8	Wh or Gr	RS or RT	8.00	15.50	36.00	*SEE NOTE	

*For more than 50 of 6-1/2", 7" & 8" pots send for special quote.

"Type" note: RS (round standard) = height & top width are equal
RT (round tub) = height is 3/4 top width
SQ (square) = volume same as RS

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Very shallow — depth is half the width of the top.

Top Diam.	Color	10	20	50	100	250
5"	Wh or Gr	3.20	6.00	14.00	25.50	58.00
6"	Wh or Gr	4.00	7.75	18.00	33.50	78.00
6-1/2"	Wh or Gr	4.25	8.25	19.25	36.25	88.00
8"	Wh or Gr	6.40	12.00	28.00	54.00	129.00
10"	Wh or Gr	9.90	18.75	45.00	85.50	208.00

PLANT CARE ITEMS

Soiless mixes and Ingredients: 8 gal. maximum for one shipping charge.

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, dolomite lime & trace of Peters	2 Gal.	\$3.00
FINE SEEDLING MIX - Similar to VH mix, no Peters & finer vermiculite	2 Gal.	3.00
PERLITE - Aerates Mix	1 Gal.	1.50
VERMICULITE - Helps maintain moisture	1 Gal.	1.50
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 Gal.	2.50
DOLOMITE LIME - Raises alkalinity of too acid soil	1 lb.	1.30

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Water, using capillary action. Vattex is a gray matting with a thin black, perforated plastic sheet on top. Thus algae growth is minimized. It is washable, tough, but can be cut easily with shears. It is 4 feet wide. (eg.: 1' x 4' = 4 sq. ft.)
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Height	20	50	100	500
8 oz. 1-3/4"	\$7.75	18.00	32.00	130.00
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For starting leaves or seedlings, 22" long x 11" wide
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SIZE	3	10	25
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9" fits up to 5" pot	3.25	9.50	21.00
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15" fits up to 8" pot	6.25	17.75	37.50
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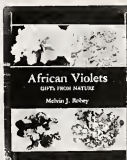
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DISCOVERY OF THE

African Violet

1892
100TH ANNIVERSARY
1992

AFRICAN VIOLETS: GIFTS FROM NATURE ... by Melvin J. Robey. Beautiful new book, contains 42 color photos, 150 black and white. Many illustrations and charts; a real textbook 8-1/2" x 11". All you ever wanted to know about African violets. Truly a masterpiece! **\$45.00 ppd.**



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GROW-LITE FLUORESCENT STAND - An ideal fluorescent light fixture to grow choice African violets. Gray top, black wrought iron legs, height is adjustable from 12" to 24". Light fixture comes complete with 2-20 watt Gro-Lux tubes. App. size 24" high, 24" long and 13-1/2" deep. May be used with an automatic timer. **\$49.95 ppd.**



NEW ... LITE STAND
4-TRAY LITE STAND ... Fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing. They are easy to assemble with a screwdriver. These stands are sturdy, yet attractive. The unit comes complete with four plastic tan trays and four double light fixtures with Gro-lux wide spectrum tubes. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with the new slide adjustment. Overall size 70" high x 26" length x 12" depth. Shipped by UPS prepaid.

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 4-Tray Lite Stand Brown finish \$285.00 ppd.

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8-Tray Lite Stand Aluminum Finish \$295.00 ppd.
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FLORA CART — Indoor Garden on Wheels - Ideal for growing African violets. Rugged lifetime construction of aluminum tubing. Beautiful molded fiberglass trays 19" x 49" x 1-1/2", light-weight, strong and easy to clean. Shipped "knocked down" with complete instructions for assembly. May be operated with automatic timer. (Accommodates 48" tubes.) Flora Carts shipped only in Continental USA.

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African Violet

MAGAZINE

Volume 45

Number 2

March • April 1992

1892 - 1992 — A Century of Violets



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Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704 - phone 409-839-4725. Life - \$200; Commercial USA - \$25, Commercial International - \$27; Individual - \$15.00, USA only. All other countries \$17.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a New York, USA Bank. See Membership Application on page 1.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$15.00; Council, State or Region - \$30. *Please complete the form received with your renewal notice and return to AVSA office with affiliate dues check.*

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards, how to organize a chapter or membership questions, write Irene Merrell, W 283 Hillendale Dr., Oconomowoc, WI 53066.

AVSA OFFICE: Nancy Lawrence, Office Manager, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704, 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST.

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SLIP CASE BOXES FOR AVMs: \$12.50 each or 2 for \$24.00.

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LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Ralph Breden, 127 Via Los Altos, Redondo Beach, CA 90277.

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ARTICLES by Members & Columnists: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENT NOTICES: Send to Editor.

***Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists & Coming Events:** Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

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ADVERTISING Deadlines: Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sept. 1. ONLY currently paid Commercial Members may advertise.

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POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704.



Vol. 45 Number 2

March/April 1992

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

ON THE COVER — *Outrage*, a Gordon Boone hybrid and blue ribbon winner grown by Carroll Gealy of Westlake Village, CA, at the 1991 AVSA Convention/Show in Santa Clara, CA.

(Cover photo by Ernest Braun, Photographer, San Francisco)

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From the President's Desk

Dear AVSA Members,

Columbus, Ohio, April 20 - 26, 1992, at the Hyatt Columbus Hotel Convention Center is the place to be for AVSA's 46th convention.

Knowing the people doing the convention, I promise it will be one of the more outstanding ones to attend. With the theme: "African Violets — Heritage and Horizons," A Century of Violets 1892-1992, how could you not have a beautiful display of violets and arrangements?

The exceptional tours to take are listed in your January/February 1992 AVM and are something you will not want to miss. After all of this, you can still visit AmeriFlora '92. I have been there and have taken a special tour of the construction and layout of the grounds for countries around the world and their displays of flowers. There are 88 acres I might add, larger than Disneyland, they say.

I can't begin to explain the magnitude of this fantastic display of flowers and buildings that are being readied for your enjoyment. Even the streets of Columbus, their parks and business firms, are doing their part by redoing their plants with flowers. We were so impressed with what we saw, Ava and I purchased a season pass so we could spend extra time there to enjoy it all. This opportunity probably will not happen again for many years to come, so please join us.

Please welcome Darryl Hoover of California as our new "Show Talk" columnist for the AVM.

Sincerely yours,

*A. Charles Bollar
AVSA President*

Newsline: AVSA Beaumont Office

Nancy Lawrence, Office Manager

Some of you have just received your first African Violet Magazine (AVM). You may be a new member or you may have purchased your magazine in a bookstore. No matter which category you are in, you are obviously interested in growing African violets and are seeking growing information — well, congratulations and welcome, you have chosen the right source. Growing information is what the African Violet Magazine is all about.

With your interest in having information in mind, we would like to let you know that BACK ISSUES of the African Violet Magazine are available, and each one is chock-full of pointers you may need. If you would like to order back issues, send a SASE to the office and request a list of the available back issues. The cost per issue is \$2.50. Our address is:

AVSA

P. O. Box 3609

Beaumont, TX 77704

For those of you who bought the AVM in a bookstore, you might like to know that membership in The African Violet Society of America, entitles you to SIX issues of the magazine for only \$15.00 per year in the United States.

Where to Purchase African Violets:

For information on where to buy African violets in your area, send a SASE envelope to the above address, and we will send you a list of our commercial members. Also, many of our Affiliated clubs offer the chance to purchase plants at their shows. If you would like to have a list of the clubs in your area, send your request and a SAS to the office.

To Commercial Growers who Ship:

We would like to be able to offer our members a list of our commercial growers who ship. We would also like to know if you ship only in the

U.S.A. or if you also ship to international members, and if so, which countries. I asked for this information in the January AVM, and the only response I received was from Bill and Kathryn Paauwe of Violets by Appointment in West Sayville, New York. The office often receives letters or phone calls asking for this information. Please help us out.

Hybridizers:

We often receive letters or phone calls from people who are looking for a certain plant. We can tell them who hybridized the plant, and if the hybridizer is a commercial member, we can tell them where to write; however, if the hybridizer is not a commercial member or not someone we know, we have to search through ads in the magazine trying to help the member find a place to buy a certain plant, and they are not always listed. **Hybridizers please help us by sending us a list of commercials who handle your plants.**

Rebates:

Commercials and Affiliated Clubs who brought AVSA six or more new members in 1991, will soon be receiving their \$1.00 per member rebates. We try very hard to make sure that all of you receive credit for the members you bring to AVSA. When you send in new memberships, it would help us if you would make it VERY CLEAR, that your business or your club should be credited. It is always easier, when you send a membership application with your name STAMPED or WRITTEN in the space provided, along with the new members name, address and check.

AVSA will be offering a special centennial pin at the Columbus convention to commemorate the 100th year of the discovery of the African violet. It is a limited edition, and the cost will be \$10.00.

Jane's Journal

Jane Birge, Editor

It might seem like "old" news, but because of the supplement in the January/February 1992 issue of the AVM, I am including photographs in the center section of this issue, of the AVSA Dedication and Open House held October 12, 1991 here in beautiful Beaumont, Texas. There were so many good photos to choose from; however, I hope you enjoy this bit of AVSA history. The new office is just beautiful and I want to remind any and all of you to include a visit here if you are in the neighborhood.

Of course I had to include a picture of all of the flags I have been collecting. They look so impressive and speaking of flags—another one has arrived and it's from Thailand! Many thanks go to **Merle D. Brown**, P. O. Box 29, Chiang Mai, 500000, Thailand. Merle would like to correspond with any other AVSA members who live in Thailand.

Send Articles

The response has been very good to my request for articles for the magazine. I still feel, however, that I haven't heard from some of you who are just itching to tell your story. Please consider sending line drawings or photographs with your article, just to jazz it up a bit. Send any unpublished articles to:

Jane Birge, AVM
P. O. Box 1401
Beaumont, TX 77704

Imagine your pride when you open the latest issue and find your byline.

Hybridizers

The pantry is getting low on slides for the

color section of this magazine. Remember, a color photo in this magazine, is some of the best "free" advertising you can get. If you have slides left over from doing your yearly catalog, send them to me. Just make sure they are marked (identified) and have an arrow pointing which way is up. You would be surprised how easy it is to get slides upside down. I hope to be hearing from a lot of you soon.

AmeriFlora '92 Update

Word was received here at the Beaumont office that **Reinhold Holtkamp, Jr.**, of Holtkamp Greenhouses, Inc. (Optiflora, Inc.) of Nashville, TN, will be entering the international competition at AmeriFlora '92, on behalf of "Optimara USA and All African Violet Enthusiasts of the AVSA." If you are in Columbus, please make it a point to visit the Grand International Horticultural Exposition and Competition from April 20 - May 3, 1992. Thank you, Mr. Holtkamp for including AVSA.

New Magazine

A new publication, you should all be looking for, coming out in March, is HousePlant Magazine. The premier issue will feature a drawing of the yellow African violet. Our old friend, **Larry Hodgson**, former editor of Houseplant Forum, is editor-in-chief. For more information, write: **Mark Branciaroli**, Rt. 1, Box 271-2, Elkins, West Virginia 26241 or call 304-636-1212. Best of luck to all of them. I'm really looking forward to their first issue!

It will be great seeing you all again in Columbus!

IN MEMORY

KATHRYN G. BRADY

Kathryn G. Brady of Wissahickon, PA, died August 31, 1991 at the age of 89. Kathryn was President of the African Violet Society of Philadelphia from 1961 - 1963.

Kathryn is survived by a son, William A. Brady; a daughter, June B. Marshall; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She and her husband Bill were both wonderful workers and great supporters of our organization. Their talents added to the success of all our shows and monthly meetings.

We miss their winning smiles.

June O'Neill

RUTH SWARTZ

1912 - 1991

Ruth Swartz died December 19, 1991. She was a 16-year member of the Upper Pinellas African Violet Society of Clearwater, FL; a 12-year member of the African Violet Council of Florida; a member of Dixie African Violet Society, Gesneriad International, and *Saintpaulia* International.

She is survived by her husband, William L. Swartz; a son, Edward; a daughter, Janet Pagnard; and five grandchildren.

She was an active and willing member of the Society, a dedicated designer, and one who always participated and contributed to the many shows and other activities.

Ruth was much loved and will be greatly missed.

Dorothy Hann

MARY MILLER HENDERSON

1918 - 1991

Mary Miller Henderson of Charlotte, NC died September 26, 1991. She joined the AVS of Charlotte in 1983 after her retirement from Prudential Insurance Co. During those eight years she served as first vice president, on show committees and as hospitality chairman.

A gentle woman, Mary contributed greatly to our club, working quietly on the yearly shows.

Mary is survived by two daughters, Susan Hooper and Mary Payne; a brother, J. W. Miller; a sister, Margaret Fisher and five grandchildren.

She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Margaret H. Simendinger

Historian

AVS of Charlotte

AVSA

Booster Fund

Ruth Warren

P. O. Box 3664

Fall River, MA 02722

AVSA Booster Fund is nearing its goal to provide full payment for the computer and printer for the AVSA office. With the help and support of those who have not sent in a contribution, we can succeed. Whoever shares will also reap many rewards. Help your Booster Fund Committee to announce in the next AVM that our dream has been realized.

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BEGINNERS COLUMN

*Kent and Joyce Stork
P. O. Box 398
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African Violet Myths and The Real Truth

Almost everyone you meet knows something about African violets. That may sound like a good thing, except that most of them have heard the myths and not the truth. Maybe it's because so many of us grew up in homes that nurtured (or killed) a violet. In any case, some of these myths have become so prevalent that some people are reluctant to try growing African violets. That is a dreadful shame! So let's review a few of the myths, speculate on why they developed, and most of all, let's look for the truth.

"AFRICAN VIOLETS ARE EASY TO KILL."

If you have gotten far enough into the hobby to be reading this magazine, you already know that this is not really true. Violets are actually quite durable, most of the time. There are, however, several good ways to kill an African violet. Note that we are talking about absolute death here, not just a sickly appearance or lack of bloom. Overwatering, temperature extremes, pests, and poison will do it.

Probably the most common cause of death in African violets is overwatering. Violets are quite vulnerable to crown rot, a fungus which can only reach the plant through water or soggy soil. If a plant is left to stand with its roots in water for more than an hour or so, it may become vulnerable to such a fungal invasion. If the potting soil is not a loose, porous mix, it may

retain too much moisture, also putting the plant at risk.

The solution is to pot violets in a light airy mix, and find a watering system that allows the roots to stay moist but not wet. If watering once (or more) a week, be sure to empty the excess water from the saucer under the plant within 30 minutes or so. Or use one of the constant-water methods, such as wicking or matting, that allows the roots to draw up only what they need.

Temperature extremes will also kill a violet. Growth basically stops below 60° F, and freezing temperatures will cause leaves to turn to mush. Temperatures above 85° F, may damage leaves, causing them to come limp and watery. Regular temperature extremes can damage root systems, and make the plant weak and vulnerable to pests or pathogens.

Insects and disease are also violet killers. For whatever reason, it seems that this doesn't happen until a grower is really hooked and growing a lot of plants. It seems to happen to all of us eventually. Take heart, there's help available, but subject is entirely too large for our discussion here. Dr. Charles Cole of Texas A&M is a wonderful resource, as is the *AVM* and the *Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*.

Yes, poison will also kill your plants. Toxicity may come from overuse of pesticides or fertilizers or perhaps from a natural gas leak in your

home. We've known very few people who will readily admit that they personally poisoned their plant. It's easier to say that "African violets are easy to kill."

"VIOLETS DO BEST IN A NORTH WINDOW"

Finding the right window in which to place those first few plants is always a challenge. Grandma quite probably did have the best luck with her north window, because Grandma could not air condition when it got hot. Plants in her brighter windows would cook during warm summer months.

Assuming that you can cool the inside temperature during very hot spells, the violets will often do better and bloom more in windows that provide more light. In our area, that is a south or east window. Even with air conditioning, west windows seem to get too warm for violets to really thrive.

If the north window (we're talking northern hemisphere here) is the only choice, be sure to place the plant quite close to the glass. It helps if the window is large and not shaded by drapes, roof overhangs, or trees.

Advanced growers have found that the best light is usually artificially produced by fluorescent light tubes. This does not need to be expensive or fancy. It does need to be within about 12 inches of the plant and on about 12 hours a day.

"DON'T TOUCH THE LEAVES — THEY'LL DIE"

Sorry, Grandma, but this one probably came from you too. Violet leaves are turgid (or stiff) when the plant has been recently watered. A leaf is more likely to snap away from the plant at this time. Our best guess is that Grandma did not want to lose any leaves to careless fingers and sternly warned all comers not to touch!

Losing a leaf will not kill the plant, although it can spoil the perfect beauty of a symmetrical "wheel" of leaves. Touching the surface of the leaf will usually not cause any damage either.

The leaf surface is covered with tiny hairs,

which have a nap. They all tend to grow toward the outside edge of the plant. If you need to brush debris off the leaf surface (or if you just enjoy petting your plant), stroke the leaf from the stem part of the leaf to the tip. This will follow the nap of the hairs. Stroking opposite the nap will break the hairs off and can leave minor cosmetic damage.

Bruises caused by pressing or bumping the leaves are actually damaged cells, and this will eventually lead to dead patches in the leaf tissue. These are usually not fatal to the entire plant. These can occur when plants are shipped or transported, when dropped, or when balls bounce on top of them. This probably doesn't need any more comment.

"DON'T GET WATER ON THE LEAVES."

Poor Grandma. She probably said this because (1) she didn't want anybody pouring water onto the crown of the plant in an effort to help her out, and (2) wet leaves sitting in the sunshine seemed to develop spots or even holes. She was half right and pretty observant, but when it comes to washing foliage, getting the leaves wet is the only way to do the job.

Do not allow water to stand in the crown of the violet. When watering the plant from the top, the water should be applied directly to the soil and not to the leaves. The leaf hairs will suspend droplets of water very neatly in the crown and provide favorable conditions for any fungus spores in the area. Serious damage can result.

Do not place wet plants directly in bright light. The light (and heat) are magnified by the water, resulting in spots and sometimes dead tissue or holes in the leaf. Minerals in the water can also cause spotting on the foliage. This is not fatal, but it isn't attractive. When the leaves are wet, blot them and allow the remaining moisture to evaporate in the shade before returning them to their brighter home.

When plants are dirty from dust, smoke, cat hair, or whatever, they enjoy a good bath. Begin by putting a drop of mild dishwashing deter-

gent in a misting bottle with very warm water. Then mist the dirty leaf surfaces, avoiding the crown as much as possible. Allow this to stand for a few minutes. Next, adjust the water faucet to a very tepid temperature and a gentle flow. Hold the plant at an angle under the flow, allowing the water to run toward the outside of the plant, again avoiding getting water in the crown. Blot the leaves with tissue or a soft natural sponge to remove excess water droplets. Set the plant away from bright light until the foliage surface has dried. You'll be amazed at how fresh the plant looks. They also seem to grow better and really thrive when clean.

"CLAY POTS ARE BEST."

Clay pots, because they are a natural material, may seem preferable to plastic. It is an individual choice depending on growing conditions. For some people, clay pots actually are best. But not for everyone.

If you are currently using clay pots, and decide to try plastic, you may find that the plants die from overwatering. Clay pots simply allow the excess moisture to evaporate more quickly; plastic does not. If you decide to change to a different type of pot, you will probably need to adjust your soil mix and watering habits.

There are a few problems with clay pots, especially the cost and weight. The majority of advanced growers now prefer plastic.

"THESE GOOD VIOLETS ARE HYBRIDS. MINE JUST CAME FROM THE GROCERY STORE."

To understand why this is a misleading statement, you have to understand what a "hybrid" is. A hybrid cultivar results when pollen from one plant contacts the pistil of a **genetically different plant**, causing a seed pod to grow. The resulting plants, growing from this seed, are hybrids. Originally, the plants used to develop hybrids, were the *Saintpaulia* species discovered in nature. Today, it is more common for hybridizers to use two different hybrid cultivars in making a cross.

The species, which have their origin in nature, are fairly rare and can not be described as hybrids. However, virtually all other violets cultivated today are hybrids. Some are good, and some are not.

"MY VIOLET DOES BETTER WHEN PLACED NEAR MY MOTHER'S PICTURE."

Yes, we actually heard that. It's not true — probably. You can figure out why. Statements like this do make it fun to talk with other violet growers, however.

There's not all that much mystery to growing African violets. If good light, adequate water, even temperatures, porous soil, and a regular fertilizing program are maintained, violets will not only grow, they will bloom.

Here's a violet truth:

**"WE LOVE OUR VIOLETS
BECAUSE THEY BLOOM!"**



Best variegated standard, *Wrangler's Pink Patches*, grown by Iona Pair at a recent Memphis AVS show, "Violets in Fantasyland."

Green with Envy

*Georgene Albrecht
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071*

Members of the Pittsburgh Violet Society traveled to Ohio to see the African violet production facilities of Green Circle Growers, Inc., growers of the Ultra Violets Collector Series. Wow! Have you ever seen five acres of saintpaulias in one place? The average weekly production is 12,000 plants. This figure can go to 300,000 plants if a special promotion is scheduled. About 50 employees work in the production facility, with similar production houses nearby.

We were watching them package violets as we waited for someone to give us a tour. We felt lucky that anyone had agreed to find the time for us in such a beehive of activity. Although I had not seen him for many years, the easy gait of a man appeared in the distance. Yes, it was Nolan Blansit who would be taking us through this fantasyland. How he must love to work here. Being a gesneriad grower, I had met Nolan and Cindy at conventions when they were introducing the New Creation series of Country Episcias.

Having heard him tickle the ivories on several occasions, I asked him if he had time to play. He replied that he had just purchased a keyboard and was going to lead a choir. We will see both the Blansits at the Columbus convention. We did not see the yellow hybrids because they were not on the premises. However, we did see the new hybrids in his corner of this horticultural heaven. They were spectacular. There was a dark blue flower with a wide red margin and a white double with peduncles over a quarter-inch thick. He is working with variegated foliages, trailing violets, miniatures and middies, which sounds like the size we used to call windowsill. As you read this, remember that he is hybridizing for mass production, not our show

tables. Although some of these plants look as if they would be perfect show candidates.

His requirements for production and shipping must produce a medium-sized foliage that allows the bloom to rise easily. Large, brittle foliage is out. The American consumer wants pizzazz so the bright colors, bicolors and fantasy blooms capture the most attention. He had several huge white frilled pansy types with dark purple quarter-inch margins. Awesome. Another had blue with pink margins, another velvety dark, deepest red, and one of his whites had 16 double flowers to each peduncle.

Production starts by taking medium-sized leaves from directly under a bloomstalk that is in full bloom. The leaves have short petioles and are lined out in back-to-back rows. This gives the leaves equal light exposure. There are 60 to a square flat and each must produce at least two plants. When the plantlets have leaves the size of a nickel, the mother leaf is broken away. Later the tiny plants are sorted according to size, stripped of most roots and larger leaves and planted in plug trays where they spend the next 10 weeks. This method produces plants that grow evenly. The plugs are then planted in larger finishing pots and can be finished in another several weeks. We saw the automated potting methods, which use Fafard Potting Soil as the growing medium. They are sprayed with a fungicide as the tables are pushed into production lines. Some of this huge area is double decked with lower plants growing under the sodium lights.

Nolan does the hybridizing schedule, sows the seed and cares for the seedlings. When they are blooming size he selects those with promise and the rest are sent to market. When he lifted the clear plastic cover from a tray of tiny seedlings, they already had variegated foliage even though they were only an eighth of an inch wide. Under and above benches other tropical foliages grow, including *Nematanthus*.

We saw some of Bill Johnson's beautiful hybrids that are now in mass production. We were surprised that they also produce about six

varieties with lovely "girl" foliage. How frustrating to be among thousands of violets, and not purchase one.

We expressed sincere and joyful appreciation for Nolan's time.

Later that evening, exhausted but needing a

few groceries, I forced myself into the nearest store. What do I see, a whole display of new arrivals, Ultra Violets, of course. I snatched a large frilly pink named 'Starlite' and placed it beside the cider and lettuce.

The end of a lovely day.



YOUR LIBRARY

Ralph Breden
127 Via Los Altos
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

The *New College Encyclopedia* defines a library as any organized collection of data in the form of tapes, recordings, films, data banks, photographs, memorabilia, and written records.

The AVSA collection housed in the Beaumont office certainly merits the title of "library." The collection is organized; I can personally attest that that requisite. The data is in the form of tapes, films (slides), written records, and some might consider some of the slide programs as memorabilia. They represent violet cultivars rarely seen in shows any more.

I recently had the pleasure of screening some 100 show schedules submitted by affiliated clubs throughout the U.S.A. and Canada. I selected five sets of 12 schedules — each for addition to the library. Even though most affiliates have experienced schedule composers, I recommend getting a packet of schedules from the library to learn what affiliates in other parts of the country are doing, schedulewise. I learned a very advantageous rule in one of the schedules that I screened — the right to eliminate or combine classes, if warranted by the number of entries being retained by the show committee.

During this past year, the library committee

has received suggestions relative to video tapes for the library. It was suggested we videotape some of the presentations, as well as the show room. Maybe a video of candid convention cameos would be popular. A plea has gone out for help in this area. My Christmas present was a Sony 401 Handycam, but it requires an experienced operator.

We are promised a new video program on insects and pests from Dr. Charles Cole of Texas A&M.

As we look forward to the convention in Columbus, Ohio, the library committee's goal is to give the membership the best material we can develop in a timely manner, at a reasonable cost. If you have suggestions for enhancing the library operation, please send them to your library committee chairman.

Attention: Affiliates

Show write ups will now come under the heading of "Show Talk," Please send information:

Darryl Hoover
912 S. Highland Ave., Apt. C
Fullerton, CA 92632

COMING EVENTS

MARCH 6 & 7 TEXAS — Spring Branch AVC of Houston's 14th annual show/sale, Fair Haven United Methodist Church, 1330 Gessner (at Long Point). Mar. 6, 2 - 6 p.m.; Mar. 7, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Free admission. Ellen Moskal, show chair. For more information: Judy Carter, 713-492-2034.

MARCH 6 & 7 LOUISIANA — Violets on The Bayou show/sale, Southland Mall, Houma. Public invited, free admission. Mall hours, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Anaise LeBlanc, show chair, 3525 Hwy. 1, Napoleonville 70390, 504-369-7526.

MARCH 6 & 7 CALIFORNIA — Pomona Valley AVS show/sale, "Forty Years with Violets," Church of the Brethren, 2175 Bonita Ave., LaVerne. Mar. 6, 1 - 6 p.m.; Mar. 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission, everyone invited.

MARCH 7 & 8 LOUISIANA — The Baton Rouge AVS show/sale, "Dining with Violets," Merchants Landing Flea Market, 9800 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge. Mar. 7, 2 - 7 p.m.; Mar. 8, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free to the public. For more information: Fran Spear, 504-665-3686.

MARCH 7 & 8 TEXAS — Corpus Christi AVS' 22nd annual show/sale, Corpus Christi Garden Center, 5325 Greely Dr. Open to the public, no charge. Mar. 7, 1 - 5 p.m.; Mar. 8, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

MARCH 7 & 8 ALABAMA — Capital City AVS show/sale, "Light up Broadway with Violets," Southern Homes and Gardens, Highway 231 North (Wetumpka Highway) Montgomery. Public invited, free admission and parking. Mar. 7, 2 - 5 p.m.; Mar. 8, 1 - 5 p.m. For more information: Sue Mouring, show chair, 262-1831 or Doris Till, president, 264-6509.

MARCH 7 & 8 ARIZONA — Tucson AVS will present its 35th annual show, "African Safari," center court of Park Mall Shopping Center, 5870 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson. Mar. 7, noon - 9 p.m.; Mar. 8, noon - 5 p.m. Free admission. For more information: Rosalie Herlihy, show chair, 602-888-9186 or publicity chair, Ruth Over, 602-795-9121.

MARCH 13 & 14 LOUISIANA — Top Choice AVS of Shreveport's 20th annual show/sale, "Violets In Fairyland," Pierremont Mall, 4801 Line Ave., Shreveport. Mar. 13, 2 - 7 p.m.; Mar. 14, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Cami Ingle, show chair; Elizabeth Wilson, president, 318-868-3215.

MARCH 14 & 15 NEW YORK — Sweet Water AVS show/sale, "Violets Around the Clock," West Sayville Fire Department, Montauk Highway, West Sayville. Mar. 14, 2 - 5 p.m.; Mar. 15, noon - 5 p.m. Admission: donation. Eileen Montgomery and Denise Monteleone, cochair. For more information: 516-589-2724.

MARCH 18 - 22 TENNESSEE — The Dixie AVS 1992 convention, "Rollin' on the River with Violets," Memphis Airport Hotel (formerly the Memphis Airport Hilton), 2240 Democrat Road, Memphis. Showroom open, Saturday, Mar. 21. Sales room open each day. A judges school and workshops on trailers, design, and the Optimara greenhouses will be offered. Host for the convention is the Volunteer State AV Council. Additional information: Mary Loewer, Council President, 18 Galway St., Wynne, AR 72396, 501-238-3382.

MARCH 20 & 21 FLORIDA — Central Florida AVS show, "Violets are Magic," Beardall Senior Center, Orlando.

MARCH 20 & 21 NEW JERSEY — Union County Chapter's 38th show/sale, "Violets in Storybook Lane," All Saints Episcopal Church, 599 Park Ave., Scotch Plains. Mar. 20, 6 - 9 p.m.; Mar. 21, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission and parking. Show cochair: Chris Brenner, 908-254-8520; and Faith Perrin, 201-635-0529.

MARCH 20 - 22 MINNESOTA — AVS of Minnesota show/sale, "In Tune With Violets," Maplewood Mall, White Bear Ave. at Interstate 694, Maplewood. Regular mall hours. Public invited. Faye Drewianka, chair; Ken Rein, cochair.

MARCH 20 - 22 ILLINOIS — AV Fanciers, Inc. of Rockford show/sale, "African Violets go Environmental," North Towne Mall, North Main and Riverside Blvd. Florise Hogan, president, 815-397-2000.

MARCH 21 & 22 TEXAS — First Austin AVS show/sale, "Amazing Discoveries," Austin Area Garden Center, Zilker Botanical Garden, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., both days. Free admission. For more information: Mary Beall, show chair, 512-453-2732.

MARCH 21 & 22 CALIFORNIA — San Mateo AVS show/sale, Howard Johnson Hotel, 485 Veterans Blvd. (101 Freeway and Whipple), Redwood City. Mar. 21, 2 - 6 p.m.; Mar. 22, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission, public welcome. For more information: 415-593-2998.

MARCH 21 & 22 COLORADO — Rocky Mountain AV Council show/sale, "Violets and Other Fantasies," Denver Botanic Gardens, 1005 York St., Denver. Mar. 21, 1 - 4:30 p.m.; Mar. 22, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MARCH 21 & 22 NEW YORK — Heritage AVS of Long Island show/sale, "The Final Frontier - ?" Christ Lutheran Church, 300 Hillside Drive So., New Hyde Park (south side of Hillside Avenue). Mar. 21, 1 - 5 p.m.; Mar. 22, noon - 5 p.m. Bob Kustek, show chair.

MARCH 26 - 28 TEXAS — First AVS of Dallas show/sale, "Violet Spring Symphony," Richardson Square Mall, Plano and Beltline, Richardson. Sale, Mar. 26, 27, 28; show, Mar. 27 & 28, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. For more information: Grace Davis, 214-278-0389.

MARCH 27 & 28 VIRGINIA — Richmond AVS show/sale, "Rediscover Violets," Azalea Mall, Mar. 27, 2 - 9 p.m.; Mar. 28, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information: 804-222-0947.

MARCH 27 & 28 FLORIDA — AVS of Fort Walton Beach's 12th annual show/sale, "African Violets Visit the Orient," Santa Rosa Mall, 300 Mary Esther Boulevard, Mary Esther. Mar. 27, 2 - 9 p.m.; Mar. 28, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission. For more information: Ginger Kollman, show chair, 207 Pawnee Circle, Fort Walton Beach 32548, 904-863-3284; or Nettie Shelton, 316 Carmel, Fort Walton Beach 32548, 904-862-9848.

MARCH 27 - 29 DELAWARE — Delaware AVS show/sale, "Musical Violets," Penney's Court, Christiana Mall, Newark. Mar. 27, 3:30 - 9:30 p.m.; Mar. 28, 10 a.m. - 9:30

p.m.; Mar. 29, 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Public invited, free admission. Angie Celano, president; Bessie Pyle, show chair.

MARCH 27 - 29 MINNESOTA — North Star AV Council's show/sale, "Violets: A 100 Year Love Affair," Northtown Mall, Hwy 10 & University Ave. N., Blaine. Open during mall hours, public invited. Ruth Bann, Lorraine Nelson and Carol Seaberg, cochairs.

MARCH 28 & 29 IOWA — Evening AVC of Des Moines' show/sale, "African Violet Centennial 1892 - 1992," Des Moines Botanical Center, 909 East River Dr., Des Moines. Mar. 28, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Mar. 29, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information: Marlene Wright, 278-2567.

MARCH 28 & 29 NEW YORK — AVS of Greater New York, Inc.'s 35th annual show/sale, "Violets go to School," All Saint's Episcopal Church Parish House, 214-31 40th Ave., Bayside. Mar. 28, 2 - 5 p.m.; Mar. 29, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Public invited, free admission. Claire J. Schitzer, show chair.

MARCH 28 & 29 ILLINOIS — AVS of Northern Illinois show, Friendship Park Conservatory, 395 Algonquin Rd. (E. of Elmhurst Rd.), Des Plaines. Mar. 28, 1 - 5 p.m.; Mar. 29, 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Open to the public. Adelle Johnson, 708-457-0661.

MARCH 28 & 29 ARKANSAS — Green Thumb AVC show/sale, "The ABC's of Growing Violets," Northwest Arkansas Mall, Hwy 71 North, Fayetteville. Mar. 28, noon - 9 p.m.; Mar. 29, noon - 4 p.m. Free to the public. Ruby Pope, show chair. For information: 501-442-2201.

APRIL 2 - 4 TEXAS — Alpha AVS of Dallas show/sale, "Poetry in Bloom," Valley View Mall, 2040 Valley View Mall at L.B.J. Sale: Apr. 2, 3, 4; show, Apr. 3 & 4, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. For more information: Grace Davis, 214-278-0389.

APRIL 2 - 5 TENNESSEE — Memphis AVS show/sale, "Violets - A Dutch Treat!" Goldsmiths Civic Garden Center, 750 Cherry Road, Memphis. Open to the public, free admission. Peggy Adamson, show chair.

APRIL 3 & 4 NEW JERSEY — Bergen County AVS show/sale, "Easter Parade," Old North Reformed Church, Washington and Madison avenues, Dumont. Apr. 3, 3 - 9 p.m. Apr. 4, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free admission, non-members are invited to enter their violets. Entries are Thurs., Apr. 2, noon - 8 p.m. Show chair, Lorraine Dwyer; cochair, Barbara Church.

APRIL 3 & 4 NEW JERSEY — Central Jersey AVS show/sale, "Babes in Bloom," First Presbyterian Church, Route 34, Matawan. Apr. 3, 3 - 9 p.m.; Apr. 4, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission. Jan Murasko, Terri Melandro, show cochairs, 908-821-8641.

APRIL 3 & 4 TEXAS — First AVS of San Antonio show/sale, North Star Mall, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., each day. Free admission. Lois Anderson, president.

APRIL 3 - 5 GEORGIA — Master City AV & Gesneriad Society show/sale, "Violet Pet Shop," August Mall, Wrightsboro Rd. & 1520, Augusta. Free admission, mall hours. For more information: 404-592-4274.

APRIL 3 - 5 WISCONSIN — Milwaukee AVS show/sale, "Violets Tour Milwaukee," Southridge Mall, 5300 So. 76th St. Dorothy Fossum and Joan Wilson, cochairs.

APRIL 3 - 5 TEXAS — Fort Worth AVS' 29th show/sale, "Around the World with Violets," Fort Worth Botanical Garden Center. Apr. 4, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Apr. 5, 1 - 4 p.m. Mrs. Robert Burger, president; Mrs. Pat South, show chair.

APRIL 4 CALIFORNIA — Burbank AVS' sixth annual

display/sale, LAB Building, Verdugo Park, 3201 W. Verdugo Ave., Burbank. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information: Laura Thomson, president, 818-846-1241.

APRIL 4 CONNECTICUT — Windsor AVS show/sale, "Fairy Tales Can Come True," Windsor Public Library, 323 Broad St., Windsor. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Public welcome, free admission. For more information: Vivian Hiltz, 203-666-3573.

APRIL 4 & 5 CALIFORNIA — Orange County AVS show/sale, "Violets Go To The Cats," Buena Park Mall. Apr. 4, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Apr. 5, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Open to the public. Dorothy Kosowsky and Ed Hoefer, show cochairs.

APRIL 4 & 5 NEW YORK — Long Island AVS' 38th annual show, "Colour our World," Rockville Centre Recreation & Community Center, 111 Oceanside Road, Rockville Centre. Apr. 4, 2 - 6 p.m.; Apr. 5, noon - 5 p.m. Show cochairs, Dolores O'Sullivan, 246-28 Deepdale Ave., Douglaston 11362, and Betty Raskopf, 3355 Bunker Ave., Wantagh 11793.

APRIL 4 & 5 FLORIDA — AVS of Pensacola's 16th annual show/sale, "A Century of African Violets," Bayview Community Center, 20th Ave. and Lloyd St., Pensacola. Apr. 4, 2 - 7 p.m. Apr. 5, noon - 5 p.m. Free admission. For more information: Barbara Goebel, show chair, 904-433-0905.

APRIL 4 & 5 CALIFORNIA — Capital City AVS' 40th annual show/sale, "Magic of Violets," Sacramento Garden Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., located between E and H streets. Apr. 4, 2 - 6 p.m.; Apr. 5, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Public invited, free show, education and information tables. Barbara Elkin, show chair, 916-878-0505.

APRIL 4 & 5 NEW MEXICO — Albuquerque AVC show/sale, "A Century of Violets," Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas NE, Albuquerque. Apr. 4, 2 - 6 p.m.; Apr. 5, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free to the public. Joy Tallant, show chair.

APRIL 4 & 5 TEXAS — Centex-Rainbow AVC show/sale, "Wonderful World of Violets," Conder Park Teen Center, 902 Conder St., Killeen. Maxine Garlick, 817-547-4752, chair.

APRIL 4 & 5 CONNECTICUT — Thimble Islands AVS show/sale, Canse Brook Senior Center, Cherry Hill Rd., I95, exit 54, Branford. Apr. 4, 1 - 4 p.m.; Apr. 5, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information: 203-481-9455.

APRIL 4 & 5 TEXAS — NASA Area AVS 15th annual show/sale, "Star Spangled Violets," Webster Civic Center, 311 Pennsylvania, Webster. Apr. 4 1:30 - 6 p.m.; Apr. 5, 2:30 - 5 p.m. Becky Pinion, show chair, 713-554-6294.

***** NOTE*** DATE CHANGE — APRIL 10 & 11 NEBRASKA** — Lincoln AVS show/sale, "100 Years of African Violets," East Park Plaza, 66th and "O" streets, Lincoln. Apr. 10, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Apr. 11, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Ann Sweeney, show chair, 402-476-1316; Kerry Matigan, cochair, 402-486-1703; Anna Marie Bretthorst, president.

APRIL 10 & 11 TEXAS — First AVS of Wichita Falls show/sale. Apr. 10, 2 - 7 p.m.; Apr. 11, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Open to the public, free admission. Mary Walbrick and Allene Peek, cochairs. For more information: 1-817-928-2371.

APRIL 10 & 11 SOUTH CAROLINA — Spartanburg AVS show/sale, "100 Years with Violets," Hillcrest Mall, Spartanburg. Apr. 10, noon - 9 p.m.; Apr. 11, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Ernestine Wright and Martha Young, cochairs.

APRIL 10 - 12 INDIANA — The Indiana State African Violet Society 1992 convention/show, Holiday Inn East,

corner of 21st St. and Shadeland Ave., Indianapolis. Registration: Apr. 10, 6 - 9 p.m.; Apr. 11, 8 - 10 a.m. Show hours: Apr. 11, 3:30 - 9 p.m.; Apr. 12, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information and/or registration, contact: Carol or Larry Verrill, 10364 Orchard Park West Drive, Indianapolis 46280, 317-844-2623.

APRIL 10 - 12 MISSOURI — The Unpredictables AVS of Blue Springs show/sale, "The ABC's of Violets," Independence Shopping Center, I-70 and M-291, Independence. Apr. 10 & 11, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Apr. 12, noon - 5 p.m. Linda L. Golubski, show chair; Diana Huddleston, president. For more information: Linda Golubski, 816-229-2051.

APRIL 11 MASSACHUSETTS — Moby Dick AVS show/sale, "Violets Around the World," Christ Church, 57 Main St., Swansea. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Public welcome, free admission. Lorraine Connors, show chair. For information: Susan Gimblet, 401-624-8066.

APRIL 11 & 12 CANADA — Edmonton AVS show/sale, "Violets Through Time and Space," Muttart Conservatory. For more information: Lil Bowes, show chair, 17321 60 ave, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6M-1E9.

APRIL 11 & 12 NEW YORK — AVS of Western New York show/sale, "Violet Shopping Spree," Walden Galleria Mall, Buffalo. Apr. 11, 10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Apr. 12, noon - 5 p.m.

APRIL 11 & 12 LOUISIANA — Jefferson AV Association show, "Wish Upon a Violet," Sheraton Airport Hotel, 2150 Veterans Blvd., Kenner. Apr. 11, 2 - 5 p.m.; Apr. 12, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Open to the public, free admission.

APRIL 11 & 12 OREGON — Portland AVS show/sale, Russelville Grange Hall, 12106 N.E. Prescott (right behind Oregon Craft & Floral), Portland. Apr. 11, noon - 6 p.m.; Apr. 12, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. \$1 admission. For information: Charlotte Smith, 503-771-5762 or Jeanette Florke, 503-630-7790.

APRIL 11 & 12 ALABAMA — Montgomery AVS' 20th show/sale, "Circus of Violets," Southern Homes & Gardens, US Hwy 231 North, Montgomery. Apr. 11, 2 - 6 p.m.; Apr. 12, 1 - 5 p.m. Free admission, free parking.

APRIL 17 & 18 ILLINOIS — AV Fanciers Inc. of Rockford sale/display, St. Charles Mall, Randall Rd. and Rt. 38, K-Mart entrance. Florise Hogan, president, 815-397-2000.

APRIL 18 NORTH CAROLINA — Green Thumb AVS show/sale, Golden East Mall, Rocky Mount. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

APRIL 23 - 26 MISSOURI — The second annual St. Louis Flower Show, "The Secret Garden," Queeny County Park, St. Louis. Four days of display gardens, judged flower arrangements, boutiques, a special speaker series, unique social events and educational opportunities for all ages. Sponsored by the Junior League of St. Louis, all proceeds will be used to support community educational and charitable projects. Ticket prices are \$7 for adults, \$3 for children. For more information: 314-997-3407.

APRIL 24 & 25 ALABAMA — AVS of Birmingham's 20th show/sale, "Alabama Celebration," The Hodges Room, The Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Apr. 24, 1 - 4 p.m.; Apr. 25, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission. For information: Jeri Whitlock, 205-854-9978.

APRIL 25 & 26 NEW YORK — AVS of Staten Island's 33rd annual show/sale, "Hooray for Hollywood," Staten Island Mall, 2655 Richmond Ave., New Springville. Apr. 25, 10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Apr. 26, noon - 6 p.m. Free admission. Lena Papalia, show chair; Inez Gertner, president. For

more information: 718-667-8667.

MAY 1 & 2 WYOMING — Sheridan AVC show/sale, "Around the Maypole with African Violets — 100 Years of African Violets," St. Peters Episcopal Church Hall. May 1, 5 - 8 p.m.; May 2, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mary Ann Bennet, president.

MAY 1 & 2 CANADA — Stampede City AVS' sixteenth annual show/sale, "A Century of Violets," North Hill Shopping Centre, 16 Ave & 14 St., N.W., Calgary, Alberta. May 1, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.; May 2, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Erika Hargesheimer, show chair, 403-251-4947.

MAY 1 & 2 NORTH CAROLINA — AVS of Charlotte presents its 10th annual exhibit/sale, Eastland Mall (outside Penney's - lower level) 5471 Central Ave., Charlotte. May 1, 12:30 - 9 p.m.; May 2, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Public invited, free admission. For more information: Ingrid Pettypool, publicity chair, 704-542-0199.

MAY 1 - 3 PENNSYLVANIA — Springfield AVS, Delaware County's 42nd annual show, "Our Garden of Violets," Springfield Mall, Baltimore Pike and Sproul Roads (Routes #1 and 320), Springfield. May 1, noon - 6 p.m.; May 2, noon - 9 p.m.; May 3, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Barbara Jones, 215-696-7206; Bettie Roth, 215-566-6772, show co-chairs.

MAY 2 MISSOURI — Heart of Missouri AVC will presents its 11th annual show/sale, "To Mother with Love," Biscayne Mall, Columbia. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Patrick Chrouser, show chair.

MAY 2 & 3 WISCONSIN — Oshkosh Violet Society's 12th annual show/sale, center court of Park Plaza Mall, downtown Oshkosh. Free admission, public welcome. May 2, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; May 3, noon - 4:30 p.m. For information: Kevin Degner, 414-426-3764.

MAY 2 & 3 PENNSYLVANIA — AVS of Philadelphia show/sale, "A Century of Violets," Plymouth Meeting Mall, upper level, Germantown Pike and PA Turnpike (Exit 25), Plymouth Meeting. Open to the public, May 2, 1 - 9 p.m.; May 3, noon - 4 p.m. Ray Rogers, chair. For more information: 215-836-5467.

MAY 2 & 3 CONNECTICUT — Silvermine AVS show/sale, "All Things Bright and Beautiful," Westport Nature Center, 10 Woodside Lane, Westport (Post Road to Kings Highway North, follow the signs). May 2, 1:30 - 5 p.m.; May 3, 1 - 4 p.m. Free admission, door prizes. For more information: Lynn Wallach, 227-5487.

MAY 2 & 3 CONNECTICUT — Naugatonic AVS show/sale, Boothe Memorial Park Hall, Main Street (Putney), Stratford (Exit 53S off the Merritt Parkway). May 2, 1 - 4 p.m.; May 3, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Public invited, no admission fee. Door prizes, plenty of parking. Roger Wheeler, show chair.

MAY 2 & 3 MISSOURI — Springfield AVS show/sale, South Oaks Centre, 3315 South Campbell, 1 - 5 p.m. Free admission. Hazel Hutchinson, president.

MAY 2 & 3 VIRGINIA — Old Dominion AVS of Northern Virginia's show/sale, "Saintpaulia Centenary - Ten Decades of African Violets," The Society of American Florists, 1601 Duke St., Alexandria. May 2, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; May 3, noon - 4 p.m. For more information: Terry Henderson, show chair, 703-237-7929, or Cathy Akers, publicity, 703-490-4312.

MAY 2 & 3 CANADA — First Halifax AVS show/sale, "Violets Out of Africa," Lord Nelson Hotel, South Park St., Halifax. May 2, 2 - 5 p.m.; May 3, 10 a.m. - 4:30 P.M. A door

prize will be awarded.

MAY 2 & 3 NEW YORK — Paumanok AVS show/sale, Saint Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church, Shrine Place & Pulaski Road, Greenlawn. May 2, 2-6 p.m.; May 3, 1-5 p.m. Gloria Rutmayer and Jane Weber, show cochairs.

MAY 2 & 3 WISCONSIN — Brew City Violetees show/sale, "Violets Cruise to Paradise," Southgate Mall, 3333 S. 27th St., Milwaukee. May 2, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; May 3, noon - 5 p.m. Admission free to the public. John and Sue George, show cochairs.

MAY 2 & 3 CALIFORNIA — San Joaquin AVS show/sale, "Violets International," The Mall at Weberstown (next to Weinstocks), 4950 Pacific Ave. at March Lane, Stockton. May 2, noon - 9 p.m.; May 3, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Public invited, free admission. For information: Susan Bastianelli, show chair, 209-931-5070.

MAY 2 & 3 PENNSYLVANIA — AVS of Lower Bucks County's 18th annual show/sale, "Violets - 101," Oxford Valley Mall, Route 1, Langhorne. May 2, 1-9 p.m.; May 3, noon - 6 p.m. Free admission. For more information: Joyce McMullen, show chair, 215-752-2554 or Sandi Smith, 215-946-8459.

MAY 2 & 3 MISSOURI — Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council's 38th annual show/sale, "100 Years of Violets," Missouri Botanical (Shaw's) Garden, 4344 Shaw Boulevard, St. Louis. Open to public, May 2 & 3, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Marilyn Evensen, show chair.

MAY 2 & 3 CALIFORNIA — Ventura County AVS show/sale, "100 Bloomin Years of Violets," Commercial Building, Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura. Please enter through gate 6. May 2, noon - 5 p.m.; May 3, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission and parking free, open to the public. Jean Shipley, show chair.

MAY 7-9 OHIO — Violets & Friends AVC show/sale, "Calendar of Violets," Miami Valley Centre, Interstate 75 and Route 36, Piqua. May 7, 1-9 p.m.; May 8 & 9, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Public invited. For more information: Mrs. Richard Statler, chair, 513-492-6588 or Mrs. Carl Brown, 513-492-0728, cochair.

MAY 7-9 CANADA — The AVS of Calgary show/sale, "Violet Reflections," Chinook Center, 6455 Macleod Trail S.W., Calgary, Alberta. May 7 & 8, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; May 9, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

MAY 8 & 9 CANADA — AVS of Central Alberta show/sale, "A Symphony of Violets," Parkland Mall, Red Deer, Alberta. Elaine Neilly, show chair.

MAY 8 & 9 MARYLAND — Baltimore AVC's 38th annual show/sale, "A Century of Violets," Towson Marketplace, Joppa & Putty Hill roads, Towson. May 8, 1-9 p.m.; May 9, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission. For more information: Marie Burns, 301-682-5473 or Margaret Harcourt, 301-686-2824.

MAY 8 & 9 TENNESSEE — Mid-South AVS show/sale, "Violets Tour Italy," Mall of Memphis. Both days, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Free admission.

MAY 8 & 9 OHIO — Parmatown AVC's 32nd annual show, "Ohio Sunset with African Violets," Parmatown Mall, 7899 West Ridgewood Drive, corner of Ridge and Ridgewood Drive, Parma. May 8, 12:30 - 9 p.m.; May 9, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

MAY 8 & 9 WISCONSIN — Fox Valley AVC's 12th annual show/sale, "Calendar of Violets," Avenue Mall, 10 College Ave., Appleton. May 8, 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.; May 9,

9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information: Geraldine Wilz, 414-734-3198.

MAY 8 & 9 OREGON — Mothers Day Plant Sale, Eastport Plaza Shopping Center, west end of the mall (front entrance), 4050 SE 82nd (near Holgate Blvd.), Portland. May 8, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; May 9, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free admission. For information: Charlotte Smith, 503-771-5762 or Jeanette Florke, 503-630-7790.

MAY 8 & 9 NORTH CAROLINA — Green Thumb AVS show/sale, Carolina East Mall, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Greenville.

MAY 8 - 10 MISSOURI — Sho-Me AVC show, "Violets, Stars of the Silver Screen," Loose Park Garden Center, 5200 Pennsylvania, Kansas City. May 9, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; May 10, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sylvia Prince, show chair; Kitty Julian, president.

MAY 9 NEBRASKA — Omaha AVS show/sale, Southroads Mall. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information: Mary Krebs, show chair, 402-331-5498.

MAY 9 TEXAS — AV Study Club of Houston plant sale, Westwood Mall (Hwy 59 & Bissonnet), Houston. Hours will be from 10 a.m. until sold out.

MAY 9 & 10 VIRGINIA — Tidewater AVS' 10th annual show/sale, "Let's Celebrate, Violets for all Occasions," Norfolk Botanical Gardens, Norfolk (take airport exit off I-64 and follow city signs to gardens). May 9, 2:30 - 5 p.m.; May 10, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Entrance to gardens, \$2.00; show is free. For more information: Carol Van, 804-851-2543 or Pat Knight, 804-851-2115, show cochairs.

MAY 9 & 10 KANSAS — Bright Petals AVS show/sale, Gold Room, Holiday Inn, 3017 10th, Great Bend. May 9, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.; May 10, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission.

MAY 9 & 10 NEW YORK — AVS of Rochester show/sale, "African Violets Get Hooked on the Classics," Garden Center of Rochester, 5 Castle Park (off Reservoir near the corner of Mt. Hope Blvd.), Rochester. May 9, 2-6 p.m.; May 10, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Public invited. Doug Burdick show chair. For information: 716-244-3375.

MAY 16 & 17 CALIFORNIA — AVS of South Bay show/sale, "African Violet Gems," Westgate Shopping Mall, corner Saratoga and Campbell Ave., San Jose (near Ross Store). May 16, 2-9 p.m.; May 17, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. For more information: 408-379-1859.

MAY 16 & 17 NEW YORK — AVS of Syracuse show/sale, "A Century of Violets," Shoppingtown Mall, Interstate 481, Exit 3, Dewitt. May 16, 2-9 p.m.; May 17, noon - 5 p.m. Free admission, open to the public. For information: Richard Gundlach, 315-455-2963.

MAY 24 CANADA — Toronto AVS show/sale, "Out of Africa," Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens, 777 Lawrence Ave. E. Don Mills, Ontario; 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission - \$1.00; Jean Hamilton, show chair.

MAY 30 & 31 NEVADA — Reno/Sparks AVS show/sale, "April Showers Bring May Flowers," Park Lane Mall, corner of Plumb and South Virginia. May 30, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; May 31, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. For more information: Carol Marks, 702-358-5677.

JUDGING SCHOOLS

MAY 17 NEVADA — The Reno/Sparks AVS will be sponsoring an AVSA approved Judging School. Barbara Elkin will be the teacher. For more information, contact: Carol Marks, 702-358-5677 or Jann Selleck, 702-851-4824.



AVSA Building Fund

Anne Jantzen
2725 Katrina Way
Mountain View, CA 94040

Thanks to your generous donations, on Saturday, October 12, 1991, our President, Charles Bollar, along with AVSA Executive Committee members and AVSA Board members and the Beaumont (TX) Mayor, the Honorable Evelyn Lord, held a dedication ceremony at our new home — 2375 North Street.

To commemorate this achievement and dedication, a pin symbolizing the Building Fund will be available for the first time in Columbus, Ohio. This elegant pink, created by Annamarie Mays will be available for a donation of \$5 each *at Convention only*.

Conventioneers — come see us at the Building Fund table in Columbus to say, "Hi!" Treat yourself to a pin and pick up pins for your members who were unable to attend.

Be the first ones in your Society, your Council, your State to wear the proud emblem that says, "I support the AVSA Building Fund!"

Contributions from September 29 - October 31, 1991

October 1991

Don Thornburg, CA	15.00
Sweet Water AVS, NY	10.00
F. Camille Worthington, CA for the parking lot	10.00
Heartland AVS, CA in memory of Audrey Ann Buchanan	100.00
Mid South AVS, TN	10.00
Delaware AVS in memory of Lillian Crewe - past president, Life member, Judge and Teacher	25.00
San Mateo Co. AVS, CA \$1.50 per member	24.00
Metropolitan St. Louis, AV Council	100.00
Glenview/Northshore AVS, IL in memory of friend and charter secretary, Lyne T. Strachan - in an auto accident	15.00

Bill Foster	15.00
Marshall AVS, TX in honor of Mrs. Emory Heartsill's 100th birthday	25.00
Hortense Pittman in lieu of payment for project plants for Magic Knight AVS	44.00
AVS of Charlotte, NC in memory of Mary Henderson	25.00
Springfield Chapter of AVS, MO	20.00

Total for the month - \$438

TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - \$75,426.24

Contributions from November 1 - November 26, 1991

November, 1991

Don Thornburg, CA	15.00
The Crosstown AVS, WI	10.00
North Texas AV Judge's Council in memory of Frank Fuster	10.00
AVS of Charlotte, NC in memory of Mary Henderson	34.25
Rockford Women's AVS, IL	50.00
Kathleen Tompkins, TX in memory of Sue Whitfield	20.00
AVS of Jacksonville, FL	25.00
Mae Williams, TX in memory of Charlie Davis & Jack Corrigan	20.00
Barrington Bloomers, IL in memory of Earl Snyder	10.00
Jane Clay, CA	25.00

Total for the month - \$219.25

TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - \$75,745.49

***Discover Columbus
in 1992!***



mini - tidbits



Florence Naylor

2647 Harbor Boulevard, Ventura, CA 93001

You still have time to get in your 25 Favorite Miniature and Semiminiature Lists to me. The deadline is March 31, 1992. The results will be published in the July / August issue of the AVM.

Keep those "Picture Library" pictures coming. They are all appreciated immensely. AVSA thanks you and I think you for helping to preserve a history that is more easily understood in pictures than words.

Excitement is mounting as we approach the Columbus AVSA Convention. Not only can we look forward to a wonderful AVSA convention, but to take in the AmeriFlora '92 exhibits as well — I can hardly wait.

Springtime is "Show Time" for many violet societies. Let me hear who your winners are for "Best Miniature and Best Semiminiature." Springtime is also spring cleaning time. It is a time to look over your collection and cull out the nonproducers. It is also a time to add to your collections the new varieties to try for the follow year.

Some of you have written that you have a 'Pixie Blue,' that has sported pink. There is a variety called 'Megan Nicole' (Wilbur Graves) that is a pink trailer like 'Pixie Blue.'

I have not had any deviant behavior among my plants this year. They are all growing as described in the hybridizers lists. If you have such occurrences, however, I would love to hear about it.

I have had one grower experience a bloom color change, which could not be reversed from using a fertilizer having zinc in its composition, but it was not a naturally occurring change.

Since most of us grow under lights for show, I have found that girl foliage plants tend to get very tight centers and sucker a lot under lights. In natural light, they tend to grow looser and not sucker quite as much.

Like my trailers, I have better luck growing girl foliage in natural light. Some of the older varieties with girl foliage also tend to get too big when grown under lights. When grown in natural light, they keep within the definition of a miniature or semiminiature, 6-inch leaf span and 8-inch leaf span, respectively.

Have any of you noticed a difference in growing plants with no crowding vs. crowding as recommended by Dr. Ralph Robinson? He believes that leaf size is directly influenced by the space around the plant.

To date, I have not seen this difference in my growing conditions, but would like to hear about your results. When growing under lights, my leaves tend toward the big side on some varieties like 'Fairy Tales' (Tracey).

Once they have gotten large, I have not been able to get them back down to a small size. My 'Fairy Tales' has leaves the size of a small standard plant.

Likewise, I have a problem with some of Ralph's varieties becoming too big. I've had better luck controlling leaf size with fertilizer than how much space a plant has around it.

Next time you will have a chance to hear a few words of wisdom from Committee member, Carroll Gealy. As winner of "Best in Show" at the Santa Clara AVSA Convention, she will tell us about foliar feeding.

The Poet's Corner _____

'Tis the night before show time and all through
the place,
Plants really sparkle; dirty leaves? Not a trace.
Exhibitors are nervous, their brows all a-
pucker,

"Did I check *really* well for each ornery sucker?"
Armed with tweezers, brushes and a Sucker
Plucker,

My, but oh my! They're beginning to tucker.
They've been ever so careful to have plants in
the middle;

In the pots they're well centered — that is no
riddle.

Those immature leaves that the judges abhor
Have all been removed, leaving foliage galore.
Each row of leaves lies flat on another,
No errant ones, but spaced next to each other.
No gaps or "holes," or soil peeking through,
Or petioles showing to get judges a-stew.

A few plants were changed to pots the right
size,

For a one-third proportion with diameter's
wise.

Some were repotted to correct a long neck,
Else the judges would deduct three points, by
heck.

Removed were all stubs and every spent bloom,
It surely does pay to brush and to groom!

Classification did check the *MVL*, just the same,
Having plants rightly titled is the name of the
game.

They sought hidden picks, leaf supports or a
pest;

With eagle-eyed judges, they'll sure pass the
test.

Staging's spectacular, the tables well covered
(Judges like neatness, the Show Chairman dis-
covered.)

Wide aisles, good lighting and all having labels
Placement Committee's worked hard on the
tables.

Entries has checked, checked - checked yet once

more,
For it has been found with wrong classes before.
The designs are truly a sight to behold,
Interpretations e'er subtle, yet others quite
bold.

Such talent! It abounds in every exhibit,
It seemed that for no one did class themes
inhibit.

Awards has the ribbons all at the ready,
As soon as they're judged, the Clerks'll work
steady.

The Judges' Chairperson will greet everyone
And take them to lunch when judging is done.
If all does go well, from the judges they'll get
A high SSA score - the blue rosette!

Then perhaps they'll hear judges, 'ere they
drive out of sight,
Say "Congrats to you all, and to all a
goodnight!"

Iris Keating

(with apologies to Clement C. Moore)

Traveling To Columbus

Located in the heart of America, Columbus, Ohio, is within 550 miles of more than one-half of the nation's population.

Nineteen commercial air carriers serve Columbus, landing at Port Columbus International Airport, just 15 minutes from downtown.

If you plan to drive, two major interstates (I-70 and I-71) provide excellent access to Columbus from all four directions.

An innerbelt surrounds the downtown area and an outerbelt connects the city's suburbs and interstates.

A modern Greyhound bus terminal is located downtown.

SHOW TALK . . .

Darryl Hoover
912 S. Highland Ave., Apt. C
Fullerton, CA 92632

To ensure each exhibitor and exhibit receives the recognition they deserve, please either print or type your results on the reporting form. Once you've completed the Show Talk report, please double check your spelling. I can check hybrids through the MVL; however, individual names require me to contact the particular affiliates show chair. This may delay the publishing of your show results.

Please include a self-addressed stamped post card with your report. This will allow me to acknowledge receipt of your report and allows me to inquire with the affiliate should the need arise.

I look forward to serving you.

GREATER ATLANTA AVS, GA — "Violets Take Center Stage," Kathy Spissman, Laura Walker, cochairs. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Georgia Lover*, Dandy Mandy, Lady Baltimore; Second best in show, *Georgia Lover*; Best semi, *Precious Pink*, Dale Lanhart. Second best AVSA collection, *Magnolia*, Dixie Fiesta, Elizabeth; Best in show, *Magnolia*; sweepstakes (horticulture), Joan Cumpston. Best design, "Theatre Under the Stars"; sweepstakes (design), Laura Walker. Best trailer, *Snowy Trail*; Best gesneriad, *Columnnea 'Early Bird'*, Lois Davol. Best miniature, *Petite Jewel*, Jean Wright.

WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF VIOLET CLUBS — "Violets by the Dozen," Pat Robinson, chair. Winners: Best in show, *Ramblin' Silver*; Best Trailer, *Ramblin' Silver*; sweepstakes (horticulture), Mae Mueller. Second best in show, *Rob's Soliloquy*; Best miniature, *Rob's Soliloquy*, Kathleen Dodge. Best design, "Twelve by Twelve," sweepstakes (design), Irene Merrell. Best semi, *Hart's Snow White*; Best gesneriad, *Episcia 'Kee Wee'*, Jan Kutzleb.

NORTH TEXAS AV JUDGES COUNCIL — "Violets Fall Fantasy," Mary Stallings, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Prelude*, Lela Marie, *Something Special*, Naomi Nolan. Second best AVSA collection, *Blue Jay*, *Magnolia*, *Grandma's Zach*, Virginia Linsan. Best in show, *Sassy Shirley*; Best semi, *Sassy Shirley*, Dolores Gibbs. Second best in show, *Beacon Trail*; Best trailer, *Beacon Trail*; sweepstakes (horticulture), Hortense Pittman. Best design, "The World Beneath the Waves," Bill Foster. Best miniature,

Petite Jewel, Aloha Rhodes. Best gesneriad, *Episcia 'Cleopatra'*, Grace Davis. Sweepstakes (design), Jane Rexilius.

PASADENA AVS, TX — "Violets Visit the Orient," Pat Gonzales, chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Swiftly Thriller*, *Sedona*, *Apache Celebration*; Best in show, *Sedona*; Best Texas hybrid, *Apache Celebration*, Melba Bradbery. Second best AVSA collection, *Reindeer Games*, *Emilie Savage*, Greg, James Bradbery. Best design, "Madam Butterfly," Best gesneriad, *Sinningia speciosa 'Patrick'*, Pat Gonzales. Best miniature, *Petite Tot*, John Gonzales.

DELTA AV AND GESNERIAD SOCIETY, CA — "Enchanted World of Gesneriads and African Violets," Barbara Elkin, chair. Winners: Best in show, *Nematanthus 'Tropicana'*; Best semiminature trailer, *Saratoga Trail*; Best Chirita, *Chirita sinensis 'Hisako'*, Barbara Elkin; Best miniature, *Petite Jewel*; Best semiminature, *Irish Angel*, Doris Weaver; Best episcia, *Episcia 'Kee Wee'*; Best seedling, *Streptocarpus* seedling, Jeanie Hatfield; Best lesser-known Gesneriad, *Pearcea hypocyrtiflora*, Vera Parker; Best standard, *Wrangler's Green Pastures*, Bobbe Huntting; Best in design, terrarium, "Land of Enchantment," Mae Mendes.



Recent winners at a Pasadena AVS show, "Violets Visit the Orient," were Pat Gonzales, Best gesneriad, *Sinningia speciosa*; Melba Bradbery, Best in show, *Sedona*; and John Gonzales, Best miniature, *Petite Tot*. The plant to the far right is Best Texas hybridized, *Apache Celebration*, also grown by Melba Bradbery.

BOOKS

"Growing African Violets In Southern Africa"

by Joan Halford

It was a joy to receive a copy of the new book, just released, *Growing African Violets in Southern Africa*. The title states "growing in Southern Africa," however, this complete book displays enthusiasm, inspiration and fundamentals of good growing methods that can be applied by anyone, anywhere, growing our favorite houseplant. It is delightfully written, with tested and tried valuable suggestions.

Of particular interest, is the glossy front cover, displaying four specimen plants of African violets, in full color and six on the back cover. There are 33 pictures in color throughout, and over 100 black and white illustrations.

An interesting introduction tells how Joan, the author, was given two violets and became so intrigued she gathered and read all the literature she found available. Then she started, in her own way, to experiment with different ways and methods to promote good growing.

Joan is a Life Member of AVSA, a senior AVSA Judge, and a member of the AVSA Board of Directors. She is also a popular lecturer and teacher of the Transvaal African Violet Society in South Africa. Today, in her greenhouses, she grows African violets and gesneriads collected from many parts of the world. She is a renowned grower and award-winning exhibitor.

The book is well designed with 21 chapters and a brief history explaining the discovery of violets. She reveals the areas in Africa where they were first sighted. The species are given short factual descriptions and locations with dates of discovery.

The chapters, throughout, have good clarity and continuity. The glossary explains all terms used pertaining to African violets.

There is a chapter devoted to proper light — the lifeline in growing these African beauties to induce proper growth and floriferousness. Artificial light is discussed in detail. Important emphasis is given to humidity, proper temperature, feeding and watering.

Propagation is carefully explained with vivid illustrations from leaf cutting to mature plant. How to hand pollinate and plant seed, step by step, for success in growing your own seedlings is also discussed.

The chapters on soil and potting give information that prove successful. The proper method of disbudding for shows, Texas potting and capillary matting are all included.

Joan makes one statement in the book to which we can all relate ... "To enjoy working with your plants — get organized, be clean, be methodical." That seems to sum up the valuable merit of this basic manual that promotes good growing in your home or greenhouse.

This book can be purchased from the publisher: J P Van Der Walt, P. O. Box 123, Pretoria 0001, Republic of South Africa or from Tinari Greenhouses catalog at cost of \$15.95 postpaid.

Anne Tinari

How's the Weather?

While the average high temperature in April in Columbus, Ohio, is 63 degrees and the average low is 42, anyone who lives here will tell you that April temperatures can register at just about any number on the thermometer. A raincoat with a zip-out lining might be the most important item in your suitcase.

Also, bring comfortable walking shoes for touring AmeriFlora '92 and all the other attractions you'll want to visit.



A Family Portrait

Georgene Albrecht
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071

Sinningia 'Bright Eyes

Little things mean a lot, especially a *Sinningia* 'Bright Eyes' — one of the smallest blooming tuberous gesneriads. Pronunciation is sin-NIN-jee-ah in Walt Maurus' *Guide to Pronunciations*. He says that the word sinningia is derived from the name of the German gardener, W. Sinning. The official Gesneriad register of 1988 lists S. 'Bright Eyes' as a 1964 hybrid by Carl Clayberg. The cross was ([*S. pusilla* X *S. Concinna*] X *S. pusilla*). When you see two plants listed in brackets it usually indicates that a seedling from the first cross was used to hybridize with another *pusilla*.

The face of the blooms is much more lavender than any *pusilla* I've grown and the description does say it is darker. This plant is definitely more vigorous than any of the parents. The illustration is taken from my four-year old plant which has a tuber about three-quarters of an inch wide. It grows in a 2-1/4" pot which rests inside a five inch glass bubble covered with plastic wrap. This little gem produces many crowns and you can pinch some away to root extra plants. Mine never sets seed.

S. 'Snowflake' is very similar except for the white blooms. Placing them beside each other, I'd say 'Bright Eyes' has the more serrated flower petals and larger flowers. These plants are must-haves. Nothing is easier to care for and because they are enclosed, pests never seem to bother them. Just don't let them dry out completely as this will bring dormancy. Instead of fertilizing containerized plants, try giving them fresh soil every three or four months. Any good

soil mix moistened with rain water will keep them blooming. The tubers can't be planted deeply in the soil; barely cover them use only an inch to an inch and a half of soil. A bottom layer of charcoal can be used, too. If your sinningias look good but don't bloom, just like *saintpaulias*, they do not have enough light.

The Nutmeg State

This African Violet Society is truly a spicy delight. Edna Rourke, now the president, invited me to speak at their State Fair and her husband even provided transportation to the airport. By the look of their show, this organization knows how to grow, work together and have fun at the same time. Nothing is better for the human spirit than good friends, growing plants and laughter. Enjoyed meeting the people whose names I've read in the magazine



— Marge Fargeot, Julie Adams, Ann Butler, Dick Bower, etc. Don't laugh, but I really read every listing of who won what in every show published in *African Violet Magazine*. Out of state members who come to the national convention also come to this organization. Among them are Ruth Warren, Bill and Kathryn Paa-uwe, Frank Senna and John and Barbara Cook. It was great fun — I joined. Roger Wheeler, who was on my tour bus at the Santa Clara convention, helped load my slides and run a wonderful projector. You readers — join a club, start a club or rejoin one you left. Sharing your love of plants is one of the most rewarding things you can do. I know we are all very busy with life obligations, yet we deserve to treat ourselves to the time necessary to foster African violets.

A Ringer

Ringer Corporation recently purchased Safer Agro-Chem, Inc., makers of the famous insecticidal soap and other more natural remedies. Remember my dismay at not being able to find those yellow sticky bars that catch insects? — well, they will be marketing them under the name Flying Insect Attack. A local sales representative talked to us about the use of natural products and urged us to read and follow all labels carefully. The person who grows for a living, respects the use of chemicals much more than a hobby grower, like myself. His or Her life and profits depend upon good judgment and good crops. Perhaps this observation applies to our hobby, too. The commercials must use common sense and available pest control to remain competitive. As a hobby grower I have the choice to use whatever control is best. If I want to toss a plant, fine. It is better to prevent an invasion, than to treat it later. Let's go back to using some "old fashioned" things. Wettable sulphur is a wonder fungicide. Diatomaceous earth is worth its weight in gold against soil mealybug. Use soaps whenever you can. He told us to use soaps on "squishy" bugs and pyrethrums on the hard shell bugs. Easy to remember. Always spray under the leaves and

never spray when the temperature is above 80°. Many people have trouble with ants invading the growing areas; try sprinkling talcum powder or bay leaves on their routes.

Orchid growers have limited their use of Safer's Insecticidal Soap on their plants because the continual spray clogs the pores and the plant can't transpire properly. Checking the Safer's label, I see no recommendations for use on orchids. Common sense tells me that too much soap on anything is no good. Ringer introduced Restore for African Violets, a soil amendment, many years ago. I've used it faithfully and highly recommend it. It revitalizes microbes in the soil and I even add a tablespoon to each peck of soil mix, just to "get it going."

This has been a banner year for me; thank you for so many nice letters and cards. Yesterday, I heard John Brookes, the famous garden designer, poke fun at the American's gardener's obsession with mowing and blowing their gardens into sterile oblivion. We like to use all our gadgets and enjoy overkill. Maybe that's why my plant collection is in a state of disrepair most of the time. I'm too busy to be consistent, but I have fun.

Send me your ideas or growing hints and remember — if you want an answer to your letter, send a SASE.

Good growing.

A Centennial Pin (1892 - 1992)

Limited Edition

\$10.00

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*Wear this beautiful pin with pride
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Over the years, I have had numerous contacts, through letters and via the telephone, with people seeking answers to questions or asking for advice on hybridizing. I tried to help to the best of my ability, always amazed and pleased by the great diversity of individuals whose common denominator was an interest in African violets — doctors, military personnel, airline pilots, students, teachers, housewives, corporate executives, greenhouse employees, clergy, etc. Certain questions cropped up time and again, and I shall, at this time, review several of the most frequently asked, while anticipating others from you, the readers.

Q: *What are my chances of making a great deal of money in African violets:*

A: Slim! It has been done, but not frequently, especially in recent years. A more realistic expectation would be a modest income or supplement — unless you are prepared to make a large investment and have the expertise in marketing and promotional skills.

Q: *Since modern violets are such an improvement over the early ones, is there any value to the hybridizer in any of the "oldies"?*

A: Indeed there is! And especially to the plant breeder with specific goals in mind. Unfortunately, we have lost a number of cultivars which might have proved to be both challenging and valuable. There came a time during the "violet fever epidemic" when show plant orientation reigned supreme and numerous cultivars were consigned to

oblivion because they failed to "conform." We became so obsessed with new names and glowing promises that we failed to note or appreciate some endearing traits in our discards. Instead of concentrating on improving and taming some of these early cultivars, we discarded indiscriminately. How I wish that I could locate one such "oldie" named 'Patent Leather.' Insignificant blossoms but what foliage! Very dark, very shiny, and deserving of its descriptive name. Then there were Buynak's "Caravan" series. Large plants with single blossoms that tended to drop. But the heavy ruching around the leaf edges of Caravan 'Heirloom,' 'Masquerade,' 'Limelight,' and 'New Horizon,' is memorable. How I'd love to work with some of these in order to produce magnificently ruched, flat, symmetrical leaves topped by an abundance of large blossoms. A green leaf with a cream or pink ruffle around the edge would be lovely. I know exactly how to proceed in that direction, but to the best of my knowledge, the "Caravans" are extinct. 'Green Beads' with its magnificent beaded green edge is another loss. If not, please let me know.

Q: *Can you explain the difference between a chimera and a sport? I have been told that I cannot create a crop of chimera seedlings by using two chimeras as parents. Is this true?*

A. A chimera is a sport but not all sports are chimeras. A sport or a mutation is the unex-

pected appearance of a new character. (One famous example is 'Tommie Lou' which is a heritable sport of 'White Pride.') The changes may occur in leaves, flowers, or any other part of a plant. They may be due to a change in a gene, or in its location in the chromosome, or to a structural rearrangement of genes in a chromosome. Some mutations occur in plant tissues that do not give rise to sex cells. Such mutations cannot be inherited and are called chimeras. In other words, a chimera is a mutation which is not heritable. Since the breeder has no control over the type or frequency of mutations that appear, they must be accepted as an accident or an act of Nature and not as a result of hybridizing. Being the owner of a valuable mutant is something like winning a state lottery. You cannot plan it or control it. It just happens.

Q. *I am new at hybridizing and have been told to "cross the best with the best in order to get the best." Do you agree?*

A. Yes and no! For an impatient novice or a "one-pod hybridizer" who wants instant gratification, it's a fairly safe route because such a cross should produce some attractive seedlings. But they may be "more of the same" and not necessarily "different." For one who is willing to make a succession of crosses in order to achieve a specific end, there is more challenge in selective breeding until the desired combination of traits is achieved. You may decide that you want the symmetry of Plant A and the striking color and shape of the blossoms on Plant B, which, unfortunately, has miserable foliage. You may have to make several crosses before you get the desired result which combines the best features of each parent. In the process, you may get lucky and get several seedlings which fall short of your goal, but are, nevertheless, attractive enough to be named. But in one's mind there will always be the thought, "These are nice but not what I was really aiming for."

I am still trying to reach an elusive goal — a true light blue with a bold dark blue edge. My first step was to create a new true light blue without the lavender cast of most blues of that time. This was time-consuming but was finally accomplished a decade or so ago. Then came some two-tone blues, but, as yet, none with the edge I visualize. At least the groundwork has been laid and if I don't get it, hopefully someone else will. All it takes is patience and perseverance. And "violet people" have an abundance of both.



Katherine Steele of the Memphis AVS is shown with Best of show and Best miniature, *Petite Jewel* and 2nd best of show and Best semiminature, *Angel Lace*.

Attention: Affiliates

Show writeups will now come under the heading of "Show Talk." Send information to: Darryl Hoover, 912 S. Highland Ave., Apt. C, Fullerton, CA 92632



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'CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION'

1892 - 1992 — A Century of Violets

Tally Time - 1991

Mrs. Anna Jean Landgren
2450 Iroquois Road
Wilmette, IL 60091

Tally Time is a summary of the varieties receiving the greatest number of total awards during 1991 based on 127 reports including 1,357 awards from state and local shows.

*Show Chairmen — the names of winning 1992 varieties should be reported on the "Tally Time Report" form included in your Standard Show Award packet. Please send the forms to Anna Jean Landgren at the above address.

Total Number of Awards	Number Best of Show	Number Second Best	Variety Hybridizer Regist. No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Mini, SM, Trail, or Species
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STANDARDS

13	2	2	<i>Mary Craig</i> R. Nadeau #6408	9	
12	3	1	<i>Picasso</i> M. Tremblay #6924	8	
11	1	2	<i>Ness' Viking Maiden</i> D. Ness #7182	8	
10	0	1	<i>Bertha</i> B. Foster #6159	9	
10	2	2	<i>Lela Marie</i> I. Lineberg #5668	6	

SEMIMINIATURES

27	3	2	<i>Precious Pink</i> H. Pittman #6025	8	14
18	1	1	<i>Little Pro</i> H. Pittman #6637	7	9
18	2	0	<i>Snuggles</i> L. Lyon #5018	10	6

MINIATURES

13	0	1	<i>Petite Jewel</i> H. Pittman #7085	2	10
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TRAILERS

16	0	1	<i>Rob's Sticky Wicket</i> R. Robinson #6467	1	14
13	0	0	<i>Pixie Blue</i> L. Lyon #2598	0	13

TotalNumber Number of Awards	Number Best of Show	Variety Second Best	Number of Hybridizer Regist. No.	Best Mini, Collection Awards	SM, Trail, or Species
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SAINTPAULIA SPECIES

9	0	0	<i>S. grandifolia</i> S 237	0	9
8	0	0	<i>S. velutina</i> S 11	0	8
7	1	0	<i>S. rupicola</i> S 10b	0	6

One of the charges to the Tally Time Chairman is to determine whether there is a correlation between geography and award winners. Using a geographical division map from the AVSA office, records were also summarized by five areas. The following table tabulates this analysis.

VARIETY	TOTAL NO. OF AWARDS	GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS				
		I	II	III	IV	V
Standards						
Mary Craig	13	3	1	0	9	0
Picasso	12	0	1	6	3	2
Ness's Viking Maiden	11	2	1	5	2	1
Bertha	10	2	1	0	7	0
Lela Marie	10	0	1	0	8	1
Semiminiatures						
Precious Pink	27	6	2	9	2	8
Little Pro	18	1	4	5	2	6
Snuggles	18	2	2	6	6	2
Miniatures						
Petite Jewel	13	0	1	5	1	6
Trailers						
Rob's Sticky Wicket	16	2	4	6	2	2
Pixie Blue	13	1	1	7	1	3
Saintpaulia Species						
<i>S. grandifolia</i>	9	0	1	2	5	1
<i>S. velutina</i>	8	1	1	2	3	1
<i>S. rupicola</i>	7	0	4	2	1	0
Number of Shows		17	23	38	22	27

Reporting states by area are: #I includes Alaska, Alberta, Arizona, California, Colorado and New Mexico; #II - Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ontario and Wisconsin; #III - Connecticut, Delaware, Ohio, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Prince Edwards Island, Quebec and Virginia; #IV - Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas; #V - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. We received no Tally Time sheets from the states not listed.

Other popular varieties within an area were: #I - Fredette's Moonflower (6); Swing Along (5) and *S. pendula kizarae* (4); #II - Granger's Desert Dawn (5) and Suncoast Paisley Print (5); #III - Optimara Trinidad (5); #IV - Magnolia (5); #V like the top winners the best.

Some shows gave awards in two categories such as Amateur and Commercial or Advanced and Beginners, and all were included. Some chairmen reported gesneriads which are not included with species.



Rob's Cookie Monster (top)

Rob's Lucky Stroke



Registration Report

*Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711*



A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00.

REGISTRATIONS

Pamela Barnhart - Springfield, OH

***BACK IN TIME (7556) 10/3/91 (P. Barnhart)**
Semidouble purple/pink and light lavender fantasy. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted/red back. **Large**

Ralph Robinson - Tonawanda, NY

***ROB'S ANGELIE (7557) 10/28/91 (R. Robinson)** Double white frilled/rose-pink shading, edge. Medium green, glossy. **Miniature**

***ROB'S DENIM DEMON (7558) 10/28/91 (R. Robinson)** Double dark blue, Crown variegated dark green, gold and tan, quilted, pebbled, glossy. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S GAL VIKKI (7559) 10/28/91 (R. Robinson)** Double white/rose-purple frosted edge. Medium green, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S JEE JIM (7560) 10/28/91 (R. Robinson)** Semidouble mauve-purple two-tone/some thin white edge. TL variegated medium green and white, quilted, scalloped, girl foliage. **Semiminiature**.

***ROB'S LUCKY STROKE (7561) 10/28/91 (R. Robinson)** Semidouble chimera dark pink/white stripe. Medium green, quilted, hairy, serrated. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S PINK FIZZ (7562) 10/28/91 (R. Robinson)** Semidouble dark pink pansy/dark rose fantasy. TL variegated black-green and pink, plain, pointed/red back. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S PUDDY CAT (7563) 10/28/91 (R. Robinson)** Double creamy white to light pink frilled. Dark green, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S SUNSPOT (7564) 10/28/91 (R. Robinson)** Double white large star/bright red mottling. Medium green, pointed, quilted, hairy, serrated. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S SWEET DREAMS (7565) 10/28/91 (R. Robinson)** Semidouble light peach-pink pansy. Black-green, quilted, glossy/red back. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S TWINKLE TOES (7566) 10/28/91 (R. Robinson)** Semidouble mauve/some darker tips. TL variegated dark green, white and light pink, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S WHATEVER (7567) 10/28/91 (R. Robinson)** Semidouble chimera white/dark red stripe. Dark green, pointed, quilted, hairy, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S WHITE OUT (7568) 10/28/91 (R. Robinson)** Double white large star. Medium green, plain. **Miniature**

Sidney Sorano - Dolgeville, NY

***BURNING STAR (7569) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano)** Semidouble red wavy star. Dark green, plain/red back. **Large**

***CHASING SUNSHINE (7570) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano)** Semidouble-double dark red wavy star. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

***CINNAMON SPICE (7571) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano)** Single-semidouble dark red star/white wavy edge. TL variegated dark green, white and pink, plain, wavy. **Large**

***COUNTRY QUILT (7572) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano)** Semidouble light lavender wavy

- star/darker eye, edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- ***COUNTRY SUNSHINE** (7573) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Double dark red wavy star. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- ***FANTASY MAKER** (7574) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Semidouble medium pink ruffled star/blue fantasy. Medium green, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- ***HAPPY TRAILS** (7575) 11/7/91 (L. Lyon) Double dark rose-pink star. Medium green, pointed. **Semiminiature trailer**
- ***IRISH DIMPLES** (7576) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Double coral pink star/green frilled edge. Dark green, wavy. **Miniature.**
- ***IRISH FLIRT** (7577) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Double bright green and white frilled star. Medium green, wavy. **Semiminiature**
- ***IRISH WHISPER** (7578) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble light pink star/beige overlay, brown-green edge. Dark green, plain, serrated. **Large**
- ***LITTLE BEACON** (7579) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Semidouble ivory pansy. Dark green, plain, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- ***LYON'S CHERRY KISS** (7580) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Single fuchsia sticktite pansy. TL variegated medium green and white, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- ***LYON'S COUNTRY MOONLIGHT** (7581) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Semidouble light pink ruffled star/some darker edge, tips. Dark green, quilted/red back. **Large**
- ***LYON'S FANCY PANTS** (7582) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Double medium pink star. Medium green, plain. **Large**
- ***LYON'S PINK CRYSTAL** (7583) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Double pink ruffled star. Dark green, quilted. **Large**
- ***MAGENTA MOON** (7584) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark magenta wavy star. Dark green, plain/red back. **Large**
- ***NIGHT SECRETS** (7585) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble medium blue large ruffled star. Dark green, plain, wavy/red back. **Standard**
- ***PARTY TOY** (7586) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble chimera medium pink/dark blue stripe, fantasy. TL variegated medium green and white, plain, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- ***PASSION PURRFECT** (7587) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double orchid large wavy star/dark red-purple tips. TL variegated dark green, cream and pink, plain, wavy. **Large**
- ***PEPPERMINT KISS** (7588) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Semidouble white wavy pansy/fuchsia markings at edge. TL variegated medium green and white, plain, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- ***PINK RUMBA** (7589) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble light pink ruffled pansy/hot pink tips, touched with white. Medium green, plain, serrated. **Standard**
- ***PONY RIDE** (7590) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Single chimera medium blue bell/white stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Miniature trailer**
- ***PRANCING PONY** (7591) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Double dark pink pansy/dark blue fantasy. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- ***RASPBERRY DAZZLE** (7592) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Semidouble magenta wavy star. Light green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- ***SATIN WINE** (7593) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark wine wavy star. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- ***SHADES OF AUTUMN** (7594) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble medium pink ruffled pansy/pale mauve center. TL variegated medium green and cream, plain, wavy, serrated. **Large**
- ***SHIMMER FROST** (7595) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Semidouble white frilled star/faint lavender-blue and green markings at edge. Medium green, plain, wavy. **Standard**
- ***SILK 'N' HONEY** (7596) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Semidouble white ruffled pansy/pink markings at edge. TL variegated medium green and white, plain. **Standard**
- ***SMOKEY MOON** (7597) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Semidouble light lavender wavy pansy/dark green markings on tips and/or edge. Medium green, wavy. **Standard**
- ***SMOKEY ROSE** (7598) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark mauve wavy star. Light green, plain, ovate, quilted. **Large**
- ***SNUGGLES BIG EYES** (7599) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Double white pansy/blue-purple blushed center. TL variegated medium

green and white, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**

***SNUGGLES BLUSHING DOLL** (7600) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Double white star/fuchsia two-tone blushed center. TL variegated light green and white, plain, quilted. **Semiminiature**

***SNUGGLES BUSY BEE** (7601) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Semidouble fuchsia pansy. TL variegated medium green and white, quilted. **Semiminiature**

***SNUGGLES LADY DAWN** (7602) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink star/mauve markings on tips. TL variegated medium green and white, heart-shaped, serrated, girl foliage. **Semiminiature**

***SNUGGLES LITTLE GIRL** (7603) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Double pink two-tone pansy/white ruffled edge. TL variegated medium green, white and pink, ovate, girl foliage. **Semiminiature**

***SNUGGLES RISING STAR** (7604) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Semidouble light pink star/rose-pink glitter overlay, pink-white wavy edge. TL variegated medium green and white, plain. **Semiminiature**

***SPRING MIST** (7605) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Double light lavender-blue star/darker blushed center, shaded to white ruffled edge. TL variegated medium green and white, plain, serrated. **Standard**

***VERY BERRY** (7606) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Semidouble red-wine large star/white wavy edge. Dark green, plain, ovate, quilted. **Large**

***VICTORIAN VELVET** (7607) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark magenta star/bright pink frilled edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Large**

***WINE COOLER** (7608) 11/7/91 (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble wine star/thin white wavy edge. TL variegated dark green, white and pink, plain, **Standard**

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

***ADELIN** (7609) 11/9/91 (D. Harrington) Double pink two-tone. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, wavy/red back. **Standard**

***GLENNA** (7610) 11/9/91 (D. Harrington) Semidouble rose two-tone ruffled/green-edged upper petals. Medium green, heart-

shaped, quilted/red back. **Standard**

***ROSE BUTTERFLY** (7611) 11/9/91 (D. Harrington) Single pink ruffled/darker eye, green-edged upper petals. Dark green, quilted, wavy. **Standard**

***VIKING SPLENDOR** (7612) 11/9/91 (D. Harrington) Semidouble pink two-tone large/darker eye. Medium green, plain, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

Clara Hobbs - San Antonio, TX

***DEAN'S BABY OPAL** (7613) 11/14/91 (C. Hobbs/D. Hobbs) Single wine pansy/darker tips, edge. TL variegated medium green and white, heart-shaped. **Semiminiature**

Marie Beeman - Healdsburg, CA

***MARIE'S BODEGA BAY** (7614) 11/16/91 (M. Beeman) Double medium-light blue large wavy star. TL variegated dark green, cream and pink, pointed, serrated. **Standard**

***MARIE'S BODEGA BREEZE** (7615) 11/16/91 (M. Beeman) Double pink ruffled star/blue fantasy. TL variegated dark green, tan and pink, plain, hairy/rose back. **Standard**

***MARIE'S BODEGA DAWN** (7616) 11/16/91 (M. Beeman) Semidouble pink bell/blue fantasy, pale lavender overlay and thin edge. TL variegated dark green, ivory and pink, plain, ovate. **Standard**

***MARIE'S BODEGA DREAMIN'** (7617) 11/16/91 (M. Beeman) Semidouble-double pink ruffled/blue fantasy. TL variegated dark green and ivory, wavy/rose back. **Large**

***MARIE'S BODEGA JETTY** (7618) 11/16/91 (M. Beeman) Double mahogany ruffled star/black tips. TL variegated dark green, rose and cream, wavy/rose back. **Large**

***MARIE'S BODEGA SANDS** (7619) 11/16/91 (M. Beeman) Double bright pink star/some green edge. TL variegated dark green, pink and cream, glossy, hairy, wavy. **Large**

***MARIE'S BODEGA SHORES** (7620) 11/16/91 (M. Beeman) Double light pink pansy/darker ruffled edge. TL variegated dark green and rose, quilted, hairy. **Large**

***MARIE'S FORGOTTEN LOVE** (7621) 11/16/91 (M. Beeman) Single orchid sticktite star/dark purple frilled edge. TL variegated

dark green, cream and rose, semi-holly.
Large

Jim Boyer - Orlando, FL

***HELEN BOYER** (7622) 11/18/91 (J. Boyer)
Semidouble chimera pink/lavender stripe,
purple fantasy. Medium green, quilted,
serrated. **Standard**

Hugh Eyerdom - Medina, OH

***AYAKO** (7623) 11/19/91 (Eyerdom) Semi-
double medium pink/red glitter band, white
edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, quilted.
Standard

***FANTASY FLAME** (7624) 11/19/91 (Eyer-
dom) Semidouble bright coral/blue fantasy.
Medium green, pointed, quilted, glossy.
Standard

***FANTASY SPICE** (7625) 11/19/91 (Eyerdom)
Double pink/blue fantasy, wide white edge.
Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy. **Stan-
dard**

***GRANGER'S COLLEEN** (7626) 11/19/91
(Eyerdom) Semidouble vivid red/blue
specks, wide white edge. Medium green,
plain, pointed, glossy. **Standard**

***GRANGER'S WHITE PUFF** (7627) 11/19/91
(Eyerdom) Double white. Light green, plain,
pointed, quilted. **Standard**

***KAZUMI** (7628) 11/19/91 (Eyerdom) Semi-
double light pink/red glitter band, white-
pink edge. Medium green, plain, pointed,
quilted. **Standard**

***KEIKO** (7629) 11/19/91 (Eyerdom) Single
chimera pink/blue fantasy stripe. Light
green, plain, pointed, quilted, glossy. **Stan-
dard**

***ORCHID FROST** (7630) 11/19/91 (Eyerdom)
Double lavender-orchid/darker edge. Dark
green, pointed, quilted. **Standard**

***PURPLE FROST** (7631) 11/19/91 (Eyerdom)
Semidouble dark purple/white ruffled
edge. Medium green, glossy, ruffled. **Stan-
dard**

***RASPBERRY FROST** (7632) 11/19/91 (Eyer-
dom) Semidouble medium pink/wide rasp-
berry edge. Medium green, plain, pointed,
quilted. **Standard**

***RASPBERRY GLO** (7633) 11/19/91 (Eyer-
dom) Double pink/raspberry fantasy, wide

white edge. Medium green, pointed,
quilted. **Standard**

***RASPBERRY HALO** (7634) 11/19/91 (Eyer-
dom) Semidouble dark pink/red and blue
fantasy. Dark green, pointed, quilted,
glossy. **Standard**

***RASPBERRY MIST** (7635) 11/19/91 (Eyer-
dom) Double pink/dark pink-orchid glitter
shading. Medium green, plain, pointed,
glossy. **Standard**

***RED ADMIRAL** (7636) 11/19/91 (Eyerdom)
Semidouble vivid red. Light green, plain,
pointed, glossy. **Standard**

***RIO BRAVO** (7637) 11/19/91 (Eyerdom)
Semidouble white large/bright red eye.
Light green, plain, pointed, glossy. **Stan-
dard**

***RUBY TUESDAY** (7638) 11/19/91 (Eyer-
dom) Double medium red. Medium green,
plain, pointed, quilted, glossy. **Standard**

***VINCE'S CHOICE** (7639) 11/19/91 (Eyer-
dom) Semidouble medium blue large/
white edge. Medium green, pointed,
quilted, glossy. **Large**

Judie Lalanne - Englewood, CO

***CHERRY GLO** (7640) 11/22/91 (J. Lalanne)
Double cherry red star. Medium green,
plain, pointed. **Miniature**

Don Ness - White Bear Lake, MN

***NESS' ANGEL WINGS** (7641) 11/26/91 (D.
Ness) Single white sticktite pansy/pink eye.
Dark green, pointed, quilted, serrated/red
back. **Standard**

***NESS' CLASSI CHASSI** (7642) 11/26/91 (D.
Ness) Semidouble chimera red pansy/white
stripe. Light green, plain. **Semiminiature**

***NESS' DISCO BELLE** (7643) 11/26/91 (D.
Ness) Semidouble burgundy two-tone
ruffled pansy/darker upper petals, edge.
Dark green, plain, glossy, scalloped/red
back. **Standard**

***NESS' FROSTY BELLE** (7644) 11/26/91 (D.
Ness) Double wine two-tone. Variegated
dark green, cream and pink, quilted/red
back. **Semiminiature**

***NESS' LUCKY FRECKLES** (7645) 11/26/91
(D. Ness) Semidouble light pink ruffled
pansy/blue fantasy at edge. Medium green,

quilted. **Standard**

***NESS' MIDNIGHT FANTASY** (7646) 11/26/91 (D. Ness) Semidouble light pink large star/blue fantasy. Dark green, pointed, quilted/red back. **Standard**

***NESS' MINI SOTA** (7647) 11/26/91 (D. Ness) Single chimera white sticktite pansy/fuchsia stripe. Light green, plain. **Semiminiature**

***NESS' MISTY BLUE** (7648) 11/26/91 (D. Ness) Double light blue/pale blue edge. Dark green, pointed, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***NESS' RED EXPRESS** (7649) 11/26/91 (D. Ness) Double red. Dark green, pointed, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**

***NESS' SHADY LADY** (7650) 11/26/91 (D. Ness) Semidouble-double fuchsia-red large ruffled star. Medium green, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***NESS' SWEET PEA** (7651) 11/26/91 (D. Ness) Semidouble white and light pink pansy. TL variegated light green and cream, quilted. **Semiminiature**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Nancy Johnston - Bakersfield, CA

* Kiss of Pocahontas

Ralph Robinson - Tonawanda, NY

(Each of the following is preceded by the name Rob's) * Chimney Sweep * Double Whammy * Dust Storm * Gray Ghost * Hot Chocolate * Match Point * Pink Prisms * Taffy Pull

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

* Antonia * Bishop

Richard Proctor - Langley, WA

(Each of the following is preceded by the name Saratoga's) * Husky Pup * Vanilla Parfait * Linzertorte * Pink Pride

Shirley Reynolds - London, ONT, Canada

* Shirley's Little K-Dee * Shirley's Amber Queen * Shirley's My Trudy

Marie Beeman - Healdsburg, CA

(Each of the following is preceded by the name Marie's) * Bodega Watercolor * Lady Beth * Pink Bouquet * Sir Byron * Topsy Turvy * Wind Tripper

Judie Lalanne - Englewood, CO

* Denver Dream * Denver Festival * Denver Dazzler * Nocturne

Don Ness - White Bear Lake, MN

(Each of the following is preceded by the name Ness') * Alpine Lace * Blue Power * Blue Velvet * Cinnamon Gal * Creme Puff * Glitter Blue * Grape Fizz * Irish Clover * Kinda Lucky * Laced Satin * Lil Hotshot * Pink Success * Shaded Blue * Show Biz * Sleek Amber * Sweet Leilani * White Bear * Winter Carnival

REGISTRATION CORRECTION

***ROB'S BEDAZZLED** (6470) Please change Miniature to **Semiminiature**

NAME RESERVATION RENEWALS

Nancy Johnston - Bakersfield, CA

* Cherry Kisses * Hodge Podge * Nudie Cutie * Robin's Nest * Saucy Miss * Sea of Fire * Sea Song * Shirley's Joy * Silver Eagle * Silver Tears * Something to Love * Special Darling * Stormy Clouds * Stripes 'n' Spatters

Ralph Robinson - Tonawanda, NY

* Rob's Blue Kazoo * Rob's Twinkle Pink

Don Ness - White Bear Lake, MN

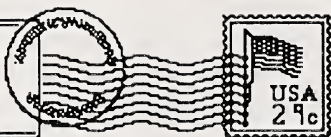
(Each of the following is preceded by the name Ness') * Angel Face * Angel Kiss * Blue Blazer * Coral Whisper * Elfin Magic * Little Dipper * Orbit Red * Plum Pretty

MASTER VARIETY LIST EDITORIAL CORRECTION

***ROB'S SILVER SPOOK** (7174) 8/29/89 (R. Robinson) Semidouble **white and light lavender**. Crown variegated medium green, pointed. **Semiminiature**

***ROB'S VANILLA PINK** (7175) 8/29/89 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark rose-pink pansy. **Crown variegated medium-dark green, pointed, heart-shaped, serrated. Miniature**

Letters to the Editor



Dear ladies & gents,

I used diatomaceous earth when re-potting most of my African violets during a bout of mealybug and I think the product killed or is going to kill all of them. Those still surviving, albeit wilted, I repotted to fresh soil minus diatomaceous earth, but they are still wilted and I don't think they are going to make it, either.

The only African violets I have that aren't wilted are those suckers I transplanted to pots too small to add the diatomaceous earth.

What I used to get rid of mealybug in my suckers was a solution of 4 cups of water and 1 single drop of Palmolive dishwashing detergent in a spray bottle, drenching the leaves once a week.

Adrian Corton
8 Fogg Circle
Newmarket, NH 03857

Dear editor:

The March 1991 (page 6) Flower & Garden Magazine, had a little story about using baking soda as a fungicide. Well, I tried it and it really works. I put about 1 tsp. of baking soda into about 1 cup to 1-1/2 cups of water. I shook it to dissolve it thoroughly and sprayed it on African violets that had the beginnings of powdery mildew. It seems to protect them for a few weeks, whereupon, I spray them again if necessary.

The best thing about it is that it is natural and absolutely safe!

Yours,
Kathleen Bell
354 Mountain Road
Concord, NH 03301

Attn:Hybridizers

J. R. Pittman
12406 Alexandria
San Antonio, TX 78233

It's later than you think ... time once again to get the cameras out and take slides of your new cultivars for the Columbus (OH) AVSA Convention.

I will be doing the program of new cultivars at the Saturday luncheon. This is your opportunity to show off your new introductions to the hundreds of people in attendance. This is a great chance for some free advertising.

Please send your slides to me by April 1, 1992, so I can work up the program. I would like a slide of the plant and a close-up of the blossom, if possible. Please include a description of the plant. You may send as many as you like and I will try to work them into the program.

The convention in Columbus is our time to make "violet history" and show off "African Violets - Heritage and Horizons" - (A Century of Violets 1892 - 1992). The dates are April 20-26, 1992.

Needed ...

YOUR Santa Clara convention slides (or color prints)!! If you have color slides or prints of tours, workshops, banquets, meetings, registration or the beautiful show and convention, please share them!

The slides are needed to continue our traditional Thursday night slide show of the previous convention. The slides, if selected, will be used at the 1992 AVSA Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

Slides not selected will be returned to the sender. The slides used in the presentation cannot be returned as they become part of the AVSA collection. Send your slides to: Jim Whitaker, 2085 Leeward Lane, Merritt Island, FL 32953



AVSA
Dedication
and
Open House

October 12, 1991

2375 North Street, Beaumont, Texas



Guests came a'calling ...



President Charles Bollar and Beaumont Mayor Evelyn Lord do the ribbon-cutting honors.

... and we were ready!

The flags
were proudly
displayed
and
the table
was set.



The violets looked great!





*and then ...
it's back to work.*



Friends of AVSA ...

As we conclude one year and begin another, AVSA affiliates have remembered "Friends" with their financial support. As you begin the new year, please consider a "new" contribution to Friends. We have a goal to reach by the end of 1992 and I need your help to achieve it. 1992 promises to be an exciting year for AVSA and its members — the April convention, the yellow violet, the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the African violet. Add to that excitement by

*Debbie Griffith
1212 S. Pierson Court
Lakewood, Colorado 80232*

supporting Friends of AVSA ...

Donations received since September 23, 1991 are listed below. My sincere thanks to each donor. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Metropolitan St. Louis AVC	\$100
Oshkosh Violet Society	\$25
Bakersfield AVS	\$50

AVSA Commercials

A Closer Look

*David Buttram
P. O. Box 193
Independence, MO 64051*



JOAN'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

If you have attended an AVSA convention in the past few years, you without doubt have met a charming woman with an accent delightfully crisp to American ears. Regularly patrolling the Commercial Sales Room, this engaging African violet grower, with pretty light red hair, is stocking up to take the best of the new varieties back to her home in South Africa.

Meet one of our newest AVSA Commercial Members — Joan Halford — of Pyramid, Pretoria District, Republic of South Africa, who has already made contributions to the world of African violets, including a recently released book, *Growing African Violets in Southern Africa*, which is reviewed elsewhere in this magazine.

Joan and her husband, Colin, have one son



Joan Halford in one of her growing areas in sunny South Africa.

and two daughters. All are married, with a total of six teenage grandchildren. Joan lives on a farm next door to where she was born, about 15 miles from the capital city of Pretoria. The Halfords have operated Union Farm, an extensive hog farming business, for the past 25 years. Several members of the Halford family are involved in the "piggery," which has a capacity for 10,000 pigs.

Joan's violet growing area is in three separate buildings within a short walking distance of each other. This arrangement was not planned, but resulted from the violets taking over — one room at a time. Fortunately, there is space on a farm and Joan is pleased with the separate structures, as insect and disease problems can be contained, should they arise.

Building #1 receives natural light. A white plastic covering over a steel structure of 26' by 36' has a "wet wall" in which water falls along the entire width when temperatures exceed 75°F. A fan is simultaneously activated, draw-

ing in the cooled air. This helps increase humidity.

In cold weather the room is warmed by a diesel fan heater that turns on at 60°F. The diesel heater is outside the room and forces only clean, warmed air into the room.

To prevent bleaching of the leaves, double layers of 80% shade cloth are drawn. One layer is located permanently on top the building, allowing for free passage of air. Inside, the second layer is drawn as needed in the extreme heat of summer.

This room is primarily for propagation. Joan grows her leaves, starter plants and general club, church and garden club sales plants here. All of her stock plants are kept here where the leaves are removed, beginning the long, labor-intensive process of finishing a saleable plant.

Leaves are rooted in a mixture of one-half vermiculite and one-half perlite, using plastic "cat litter" trays. Both ingredients are freely available to Joan.



Joan's greenhouse

She uses only one potting mix for babies, starter plants, and large plants. Several years ago, Joan found the local peat contained too high a sodium content, so now only imported peat moss is used. She has had excellent success with the imported peat, but she says that once a young plant gets off to a bad start, it is hard to shape — so out it goes to the compost heap.

Although fertilizers are available in South Africa, the selection is very limited. Joan believes in foliar feeding and uses fish emulsion at least twice a month. The application of foliar feeding helps to temporarily raise humidity. Diatomaceous earth has been used in her rooting mix and potting mix and she reports only good results.

Building #2 measures 12' x 16' and Building #3 is a larger 20' x 26'. Growing space in these rooms is reserved almost exclusively for growing plants for show displays and show sales. Also, a beautiful collection of chimeras and episcias thrive here under the artificial lights. Both these structures contain double and triple shelves with fluorescent lighting, air conditioning and time switches. The lights are on 12 hours daily and are increased to 15 hours before a show.

Presently, Joan is the only member of her local society growing for show sales, although she is hopeful that soon others will begin to participate. It is at show time that Joan's growing stock reaches upwards to 2,500, whereas 2,000 would be a more normal count.

All plants are watered individually, as community trays are used only for small, newly transplanted starter plants. Five large fiberglass sealed reservoirs collect and hold rain water, as local water is far too alkaline.

Joan's list contains about 350 varieties, but they won't stay more than a year if they perform poorly, or less than expected. Joan laments the escalating costs of buying huge orders from this country and is becoming more selective, lest ordering by mail becomes a joy of the past.

Joan enjoys the variety some of the gesneriads give her. *Aeschynanthus lobbianus* is a favorite. Others are *streptocarpus*, *episcias*, *Alsobia*, *Dianthaflora*, *sinningias* and a few *Nematanthus*, *Perianthomegus*. Joan has the entire collection of the *Saintpaulia* species, including the recently



Joan and many of her violets

found, but unregistered, ones. The white *S. ionantha* was in bloom when this interview was made.

Garden clubs, church groups and senior citizens are frequent visitors to Joan's African Violets. Arriving in a bus, they have tea or coffee for a nominal fee and get a lecture on violet growing. Plants are sold to these visitors and new friends are made.

The Halford's spacious garden is used by the Transvaal African Violet Society (TAVS) for meetings and special occasions. It was Joan who co-organized the TAVS and president for nine years. Asking to be replaced in March, 1991, she has continued to serve by being secretary and editor of the society. For three years Joan has served as an AVSA Board Director and is its unofficial Ambassador of Goodwill to South Africa.

This interview was conducted just two weeks after TAVS' annual show and empty space was mute testimony to Joan's selling ability, as 500 of her largest show plants had been sold. Fortunately, the extra space would allow Joan to catch up on painting and repairs.

As in the past years, Joan plans to travel to

the United States for her 13th AVSA convention in Columbus, Ohio, in April. If you are there, please introduce yourself to her and make a very special African violet friend.

(Author's note: I am indebted to Hortense and J. R. "Sundown" Pittman for the material and photographs for this article. In November, 1991, they were in South Africa to visit relatives and eagerly and unselfishly provided us with a glimpse of Joan's African Violets, in a far away land.,

Who would you like to read about next? I am back on the road and maybe I will be close to your favorite hybridizer or commercial grower.

Please make yourself known to me if you attend the AVSA convention in Columbus in April. I would love to meet you.

Ohio State AVS To Sell Souvenirs



The Ohio State African Violet Society will be selling sweatshirts, tee-shirts and tote bags that are screened with the winning logo of the contest sponsored by AVSA to mark the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the African violet. These items are screened in three colors and will be available at the national convention in Columbus, April 20 through 26, 1992. The sweatshirts are available in medium, large, x-large and xx-large. The price is \$20 for medium through x-large, and \$22 for xx-large. Tee-shirts are available in sizes small through xx-large for the fee of \$10. The tote bags are \$6.

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck
P. O. Box 38
Oreland, PA 19075

Springtime heralds new beginnings

Please give to BERF

For new research projects

To ensure new Saintpaulia improvements

For all to enjoy

Contributors Please Note: When making a donation be sure to include the way you want your club's name listed in the AVM. Also, be sure and list the correct city and state where your club is located.

Donations received from September 20 through November 20, 1991:

Portland AVS, OR	
in memory of Garnett Welter	10.00
Mrs. Greg AVC, St. Paul, MN	
in memory of Bess Weber	25.00
Pasadena AVS, TX	
in memory of J. Urhuquat	10.00
Pasadena AVS, TX	
in lieu of a speaker's fee to Jane Rexilius	20.00
First Arlington AVS, TX	
in memory of Clyde Capp,	
father of Ann Capp	10.00
Sweet Water AVS, Hauppauge, NY	10.00
Mid South AVS, Memphis, TX	10.00
Longview AVC, WA	10.00
Charles Fischer, Ventnor, NJ	
in memory of Bill Johnson	50.00
AVS of Pensacola, FL	
gift from Peg Phythyon	30.00
Central Florida AVS, Orlando, FL	15.00
Capital City AVS, Sacramento, CA	25.00
Hi Hopes AVC, St. Louis, MO	5.00
AVSA of Charlotte, NC	
in memory of Mary Henderson	15.00

SEE YOU IN COLUMBUS!

America's Celebration of Discovery

Reinhold Holtkamp, Jr.

We all know that 1992 has a lot of meaning for all African violet lovers. AmeriFlora '92 will serve in celebrating a dual birthday this year. This year we will be celebrating the quincennial anniversary (500 years, 1492 - 1992) of the discovery of this great continent and the centennial anniversary (100 years, 1892 - 1992) since Baron Walter von Saint-Paul-Illaire took the first steps in changing the history of a petite plant, *Saintpaulia ionantha*, which he found in the mountains of Usambara (today Tanzania).

Back then, Columbus had no idea what his discovery would bring to the world; he had no notion of what a great nation it would be one day. Like Columbus, I do not believe that our nobleman knew at the time what great joy he was to deliver to the world. One day in the jungles of East Africa, thinking of his dad back home in the Botanical Gardens of Germany, he picked up a few seeds from a plant (that would later bear his name) and sent them to him.

Today, 100 years later, the African violet is America's most popular houseplant. Many people have made a great difference in the development of the African violet as we know it today. Many people have contributed in their efforts to improve on the attributes of the plant or in pure enthusiasm to promote and build popularity. This year we are celebrating the 100th anniversary.

In honor of all the African violet lovers, the Holtkamp family will be featuring its Optimara African Violets at the AmeriFlora '92 Show in Columbus, Ohio, in an 1,200 sq. ft. exhibit. The Optimaras will be entered in the international floral competition which will be held from April 20 through May 3. The competition will be very challenging since Holland, France, Italy, Japan, and many other nations will try to outperform each other.

During this show, over 300,000 people are

expected to be walking the exhibit area and will have a chance to see a wonderful array of different plants. All exhibits will be judged on the basis of artistic and technical achievement.

During the AmeriFlora '92 and the AVSA convention (April 20 - 26, 1992, Columbus, OH), Optimara will also be unveiling its newest member to the variety pallet, a plant bearing the name, 'Centennial.' We hope that everyone will be able to take part in these two wonderful and memorable events.

We hope to see you there.

Many people wonder about the origin of the name Optimara. The trademark Optimara® can be found in the two words: Optimum and Usambara. *Optimum*, a Latin term for the *most favorable* or the *best quality*, in combination with *Usambara*, the name of the mountains in East Africa (today Tanzania) where the *Saintpaulia ionantha* originated. *Optim + ara*.

Attention: Convention Show Exhibitors

Horticulture pre-entry deadline is April 1, 1992. Forms have been sent to all affiliate presidents; additional forms are available from the AVSA office in Beaumont, and from Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive #21, Arcadia, CA 91006 (phone 818-574-1262).

Pre-entry will avoid long delays in Columbus!

S. O. S. — Save our Species

Karter Gene Wilkening
2705 S. 45th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53219

Perhaps one of the best things to come out of the decade of the '90s so far is the rebirth of America's concern for the environment. It seems that nearly everywhere one looks you can see evidence of people taking a new look at how we are treating Mother Nature. Perhaps it is time for us, as African violet growers, to do the same thing. We already do a good job of recycling, planting our violets in all manner of otherwise throw-away items. But there is more we should be doing. We should be making a commitment to grow the African violet species.

Today's African violet hybrids are available in almost every color of the rainbow, including the "elusive" yellow. They come in singles and doubles, minis, semiminis, and trailers, and just about every possible combination. They have been bred to grow to perfection in our climate-controlled fluorescent light gardens. So, why should we take on the challenge of growing the original species? After all, these plants are very ordinary by today's standards. They all have small single blue or purple flowers. They seldom win Best in Show awards, and only in the last year or so have they been allowed in the collection classes. On top of that, some of them don't really like the conditions we provide for them in our homes, preferring natural light and drops in evening temperature. So, why should we continue to grow these plants?

Modern hybrid African violets account for more than \$30 million each year in the commercial greenhouse trade, and yet the *Saintpaulia* genus, as a whole, is on the list of the 12 most endangered plant species in the world. For this reason alone it is extremely important to keep these plants in cultivation. Two species, *S. pusilla* and *S. inconspicua* are already extinct — forever gone. Some of the other species are suspected of being extinct in the wild, but are still being grown in cultivation.

The reasons for the loss of our favorite

houseplant's natural ancestors are complicated. The *Saintpaulia* species are found in only a very limited region of eastern Africa, mostly in the deep rain forest of the mountains of Tanzania and Kenya. The species plants thrive there in the shaded environment, growing in the rocky cliffs and along streams. The problem is that these rain forests, like rain forests world wide, are disappearing at an alarming rate, fueled by the African population explosion and its increased need of the land for timber, firewood, and cultivation. Once the rain forests are cleared away, the African violet's natural habitat is gone and the plants are left exposed to the scorching rays of the full sun. They can no longer survive in the wild.

So, why do I care? Why should any of us care about the fate of these ordinary and unruly plants? We must care because we may soon be the only ones growing them. We have no idea how valuable these plants may be one day. Most of the modern hybrids we have today, trace their genetic heritage to one species, *Saintpaulia ionantha*. Who knows what wonderful new varieties are waiting to be discovered in the gene pool if one were to experiment with hybridizing with *S. velutina*, *S. nitida*, or any of the others. Hybridizing with these plants could produce African violets more wonderful than anything currently available.

What can we do to save the African violet species? We probably can't do very much to save their natural habitat. The situation in Africa seems largely beyond our control. (If anyone has any ideas, though, I'd love to hear from you.) But we in AVSA are the experts in the field of growing African violets. We must accept the challenge of growing these plants in our homes and learning whatever secrets they may hold. No one else can do it. If we allow them to disappear entirely, no one will ever have the chance again.



Majesty (top)

NOLAN BLANSIT Ivory-Mauve Seedling 1439C



QUESTION BOX



James Smith
489 Linwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209



Question: I recently changed the light bulbs in my fixtures and after a week, the centers seem to be getting tight. I have noticed that there are "burn" marks all over the foliage. I can't seem to find the cause for this happening. What has gone wrong?

Answer: To quote from Pauline Bartholomew's book, *Growing To Show*, "If both tubes are replaced at the same time, the sudden burst of energy will burn sensitive plants." If you replace both tubes, reduce your timer to eight hours. Better yet, break this time with a two-hour "rest" period. After a week, you can gradually increase the time back to your normal time. Do this in increments of one hour each day.

Question: After repotting my miniatures, the leaves start to turn brown and become blotchy. This is causing much frustration. Do you have any suggestions to help prevent the brown spots?

Answer: What has happened to your plants is called transplant shock. To minimize this, try choosing a time to transplant when the plants are on the dry side. After repotting, don't water until at least eight hours later. I find that watering too soon will not give the damaged root system enough time to "heal." When I repot miniatures, they are severely cut back to three to four leaves and the root system is almost cut away. Some of you may think that this is a radical way to repot, but it works quite well and helps to maintain the small size of miniatures. When the plants are finally watered, use warm

water mixed with a weak solution of fish emulsion, combined with Bounty or Sturdy products. I use no other fertilizer on these plants for at least a week. Using the aforementioned method, I have reduced the incidence of spotting.

Question: What causes yellow or crown variegation to turn brown after repotting? Even after brushing, brown spots appear. Is there anything that I can do to prevent this from happening?

Answer: I wish I knew how to answer this. It seems that yellow or crown variegated varieties are more sensitive to brushing and repotting than any other foliage type. The trick that I learned (through Ralph Robinson) is to make sure that the potting soil is room (warm) temperature before use. Don't touch the foliage when your hands are cold, and NEVER water with cool or cold tap water. Always use a soft cosmetic brush on the foliage (any brush that is SOFT, will work fine). When repotting, try to leave an extra row of leaves (ones that you would normally take off). Since these will likely turn brown after handling, they can easily be removed later. The browning, or bruising, could be due to the absence of chlorophyll, thus making the upper layer of cells more sensitive to touching. If anyone has a more definitive answer to this phenomenon, please write to me.

Question: What do you think of using products such as Sturdy, fish emulsion, Granny's Bloomers, etc.? Do they really add anything to

growing more healthy plants?

Answer: Any of these products are wonderful when used as an alternate feeding method to your regular fertilizer program. They provide minerals that may not be available in most conventional fertilizers. If any of you have used any of these products in an experimental program, please share your results with us. One product that I use is Superthrive. Using one to two drops of this product per gallon of water at each watering, does promote a nice healthy shine to foliage. I alternate the use of several fertilizers. I find that this practice helps promote healthy plant growth. After all, how would you feel if you ate spaghetti every day? A good variety, as long as you are consistent, is advantageous.

Question: What method of watering do you find better? Mat or saucer? I use the mat method of watering and I am having all kinds of trouble with algae. What can I do to prevent algae growth?

Answer: I use a combination of both — mats on the bench and saucers under the plants. I use the mats for the purpose of humidity. The method you use, depends upon many factors concerning your growing conditions and the size of your collection. If you have low humidity levels of 30% or less, you may want to consider capillary mat watering. If you use this method, it is important to always keep the material on the moist side. If you don't, the plants will dry out and the capillary action will cease. Growing under fluorescent lights, and using the mat system, it is difficult to avoid the growth of algae. I recommend that you purchase an algicide from your local garden shop, and follow recommended label instructions. There isn't much you can do about the algae, but the algicide will help. It is good practice to wash your mats at least every two months in hot water to kill any pests that might be present. I do know of those who mix a weak amount of insecticide into the water/fertilizer mixture used on the plants. Doing this at least once a month will help

curtail any communicable diseases or pests that might be present. Using saucers will help eliminate the chance of spreading disease and pests, and that is why I use them.

Question: I have an automatic watering system. That is, a fountain pump immersed into a large bucket of water. Attached to this pump is a clear-plastic hose. This hose is full of algae. How do I clean it? It becomes quite expensive to replace this hose every three or four months.

Answer: Easy! Empty the bucket and clean it with bleach. Next add two gallons of warm water back to the bucket. Add two cups of bleach to the water. Turn the pump on and let the water recycle back to the bucket for at least 30 minutes. Squeeze the hose where clumps of algae form, as this will help to loosen it from the sides of the hose.

Question: Is it true that variegated varieties like it better if they are grown on the lower shelves of plant stands?

Answer: Variegated varieties grow best if they are placed on the lower shelves. I think this is because these plants require cooler temperatures to maintain their variegated color. Since heat rises, the upper shelves may be too hot. Variegated colors may not form as well, or not at all, if the growing temperatures are too hot.

Question: I am interested in a product which is automatically dispensed in the air for thrips protection. I need to know what type of insecticide is used and if it is safe. Will it also rid the soil of pests?

Answer: As with any insecticides, liquid or aerosol, read the label instructions and warnings before use. Some are less harmful than others. Without commenting about any specific product, it is my feeling that an automatic aerosol dispenser would be less effective than ordinary manually-sprayed aerosols, unless the critter actually flies through the path of the spray as it is dispensed. This type of dispenser is not very effective against pests that live in the soil. Its main function is more topical, at least this is the information given to me by those who use them.



FLIRTATIOUS (top) DON'S DELIGHT (below)

DOTTIE
WILSON



African Violets for Everyone!

*Abigail Greenbank
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African violet (*Saintpaulia*) culture is an internationally-popular hobby, but it is especially well-suited to the physically-challenged, the elderly, and those with upperbody musculoskeletal problems.

Tabletop artificial light stands (and some floor-standing cart models) permit the aspiring gardener, who is unable to easily move outdoors, to garden at wheelchair-level or from a seated position.

The exertion and heavy lifting, so much a part of traditional horticulture, are blessedly absent from African violet culture. Typical soil mixtures, formulated to provide good drainage, are comparatively lightweight, and can be dispensed from storage-containers with a variety of easy-to-handle household items, such as paper cups or empty margarine tubs. Wick-watering significantly reduces the need to lift weighty watering-cans, and the preferred plastic flower-pots are much lighter than clay ones. No heavy, awkward tools are needed; all grooming can be accomplished with small implements (artists' paint brushes, X-acto knives, etc.) or by hand.

The relatively-slow growth habit of the African violet eliminates the need for frequent repotting, and allows the gardener to maintain the plants in small to medium-sized pots. Colorful blossoms occur frequently enough to provide the gardener with satisfaction, a feeling of accomplishment, and mood-elevation.

African violets are an excellent choice for those living on a limited income. Starter plants can be purchased from mail-order growers for under \$10 per plant, and leaves, for rooting, cost even less. For gardeners fortunate enough to have African violet-loving friends, leaf-swaps are an economical and fun way to start or en-

large collections.

The benefits of horticultural therapy are well documented in professional journals, and the selection of an appropriate plant species enhances these benefits; if you, or someone you know, is unable to garden, in the conventional manner, consider the beautiful, eminently-suitable African violet.



Memphis AVS recent winner for Best Interpretive plant arrangement was Peggy Adamson. The theme for the show was "Violets in Fantasyland."

Join AVSA Today!

African Violet Chlorosis Related To Excess Soil Alkalinity

(with a Primer on Acid-Base Chemistry)

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Even experienced African violet growers occasionally encounter problems in culture despite consistent care, close monitoring and diligent efforts to detect problems at an early stage so that counter measures can be taken to prevent their progression. While inconsistent care or subtle changes in the growers growing practices are often the cause of a problem, factors unknown to and outside the control of the grower may occasionally be at fault. A recent experience with my plants illustrates this. The purpose of this article is to alert growers to a factor that might adversely alter the growth of their plants. That factor is the quality of the water used for watering.

I had noted that the crowns of some of my plants had stopped growing. The center leaves remained small and rather narrow. These center leaves developed an anemic pale yellowish-green color that had a sick, unhealthy appearance and the edges of the leaves appeared to be a bit more hairy than usual. There was no indication, however, of parasitic infestation. The plants center leaves were not curled and distorted as would be seen with cyclamen mite infestation. The plant roots, while not vigorous and healthy, did not suggest nematode or soil mealy bug infestation. To a physician, there was a distinct resemblance to a condition of humans (and also known to occur in plants) described in the older medical literature as chlorosis. This condition is only rarely seen in humans in these times, but in earlier times, the term described an illness characterized by anemia, weakness, fatigue and a "pale yellowish-green skin color." Developing medical technology later identified

chlorosis as a dietary deficiency disease, particularly a deficiency of iron. Because of the physical resemblance of my affected plants to descriptions of chlorotic plants, I considered the possibility that my plants could have this condition. Could I be starving my plants?

When this problem was recognized, a review of my growing practices quickly eliminated deviations from most of the 10 requirements for successful growing listed in our growers manual. As always, when a problem is recognized, it quickly becomes a point of discussion with other club members. When my problem was discussed with other club members, the immediate response of some was "You know, I think I'm having this problem, too." An inspection of certain plants from several club members' collections confirmed this to be the case.

The quick review of our growing conditions confirmed that absence of adequate plant nutrients was not at fault. We were supplying the standard 1/4 teaspoon per gallon of commercial African violet fertilizer that contains trace elements.

What, then, would result in such poor plant growth when adequate nutritional requirements are supplied?

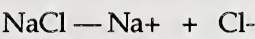
Bingo! Lights flash, bells ring and I, like, kind of feel dumb. It's the pH stupid. Hurry, where's the pH meter? I could hardly wait to get a reading on the pH of my soil. As expected, the soil pH was significantly outside the recommended range of 6.1 to 6.9. The soil pH was 8.4. This is highly alkaline in relation to the pH of the recommended range for good growing. As

we will see later in this article, the pH of 8.4 is approximately 31 times less acidic (more alkaline) than would be a pH of 6.9 which is at the upper end of the range for good growing.

One of the requirements for good growing is proper soil and one of the qualities of proper soil is a pH between 6.1 and 6.9. If the pH of the soil deviates significantly from this range in either direction, the soil nutrients become locked up and unavailable for absorption by the plant. The plant thus develops malnutrition, so to speak. It can hardly do anything but fail to thrive under these conditions.

Let's consider this thing about pH a bit more. For those who don't have a background in chemistry, it may be a difficult concept. I would like to simplify and clarify this concept for those who do find it difficult so that they might fully understand the nature of this problem.

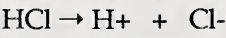
Chemically speaking, pH is a measure of the concentration of hydrogen ions in a solution. To a chemist, it indicates the Hydrogen ion Potential. To understand this concept, the nature of ions and the ionization process must be mastered. Visualize in your mind what happens when you put a teaspoonful of table salt in a glass of water. The salt disappears. It becomes dissolved in the water. This process is known as ionization. The chemical formula for table salt is NaCl. The Na represents sodium and the Cl represents chlorine. Table salt is thus composed of one part sodium and one part chlorine. In the solid state, these atoms are held together by certain forces that are released when salt is placed in water. The sodium and the chlorine separate (ionize) and go their own ways in solution. The chemical representation for this is:



Some compounds are not ionizable. It simply isn't their nature to do so. Such compounds remain in their original state when dissolved in a solution. Sugar and alcohol are examples of this. These compounds retain their original composition when dissolved, but our interest here is in acids and bases and all of these do

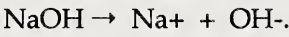
ionize to a varying extent in solution.

Let's now consider acids. For simplicity, we will say that all acids are made up of one or more hydrogen ions (H+) and one or more other ions. A simple acid would be hydrochloric acid, the chemical formula for which is HCL. This compound has one atom of Hydrogen (H) and one atom of chlorine (CL). When in solution, these atoms separate (ionize) into a Hydrogen ion and a Chloride ion:

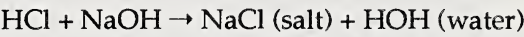


The concentration of hydrogen ions in the solution determines the acidity (pH) of the solution. The more concentrated the hydrogen ions in the solution, the more acidic it will be.

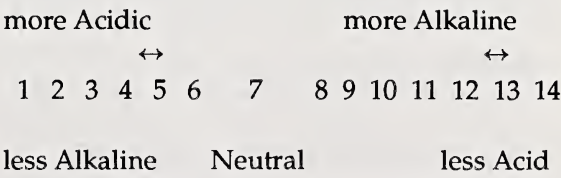
The same concept is large true for alkaline substances. Alkaline substances can be conceptualized as being the opposite of acids and when mixed together, these two classes of compounds will neutralize each other. Household lye (sodium hydroxide) is a common, but strong alkali. Its chemical make-up is one part sodium and one part hydroxide. The chemical formula is NaOH and this compound also readily ionizes in solution as such:



The higher the concentration of hydroxide ions (OH-), the more alkaline the solution will be. When equal volumes of hydrochloric acid and sodium hydroxide of equal concentration are mixed, they neutralize each other and you end up with a solution of common table salt in water.



By convention pH is measured on a scale of 1 to 14. The lower the number, the more acidic the solution is. The higher the number, the more alkaline it will be. At a pH of 7.0 the solution is neutral.



Also by convention, the pH scale is constructed in such a way that a solution with a pH of 9.0 is 10 times more alkaline than is a solution of pH 8.0. One with pH 10 is 10 times more alkaline than a solution with pH 9.0. The solution with pH 10 would be 100 times more alkaline than the solution with pH 8.0. From this it can be seen that minor changes in the pH of a solution represent major changes in the relative acidity or alkalinity of that solution. I have gone through all of this to illustrate the magnitude of deviation of the pH of the soil of my sick plants from that of the recommended pH range. The pH of a solution ascends or descends on a logarithmic, not a linear scale. It is not necessary for the reader to fully understand this concept, however. By a logarithmic calculation, it can be determined that my soil with pH of 8.4 would be approximately 31 times more alkaline than would a soil with pH at the upper end of the recommended range for optimal growth. Availability of plant nutrients for absorption at this greatly altered pH would have to be seriously inhibited and could be expected to result in the poor growth we observed.

Why was our soil so alkaline? The pH of the soil was 6.9 after composition and allowing one month for acid-base equilibrium to occur. We had noted that newly potted starter plants grew well for a period of time. After about 6 weeks of initial growth, signs of trouble began to appear. This was particularly noticeable on plants that were wicked. Some plants were not as severely affected as others were and top watered plants were not as severely affected as were bottom watered plants. Since our initial soil mix had an acceptable pH and after about six weeks of growth, the pH of the mix had changed to 8.4, we postulated that some factor in our watering process was altering the pH of the soil. Indeed, the community water supply of each club member who was having this problem was found to be 8.4. The city water departments are required to monitor water quality and they regularly obtain measurements of the water pH. They were glad to supply us with this

information.

After going through this sequence of events, reasoning through the process and accumulating the data on soil and water pH, we postulate that:

1. Our excessively alkaline community water supply adversely altered our soil pH to the extent that plant growth suffered.
2. Some plant varieties are more sensitive to soil pH changes than are others.
3. Wick watered and bottom watered plants were more consistently affected than were top watered plants. We believe that top watering would leech some of the excess alkalinity from the soil.

In retrospect, we realized that this was not a problem of recent onset. We had observed this problem for some time but had avoided it to some extent by very frequent repotting. To avoid the problem, repotting would be required before the roots filled the appropriately sized pot. I was spending a small fortune for soil ingredients, discarding a lot of plants, and having a great difficulty in achieving the vigorous show quality plant for which we all strive.

Our solution to the problem was to discontinue using the water from the community source and to use either rain water or personal well water. The pH of our rain water was found to be 5.5 to 6.0 and the pH of the water from the personal well was found to be 7.0. Now, several months after changing water supply, the vigorous growth has returned. Healthy roots quickly fill the pot and such frequent repotting is no longer necessary to prevent the development of chlorosis.

A word of caution is in order here. One might think that since the problem is one of altered soil pH, adjustment of the soil pH by chemical means would be corrective. My attempt to do so met with only very limited success. I used a dilute solution of acetic acid (vinegar) with pH 5.5 to water a sample of affected plants until soil pH returned to between 6.5 and 6.9. These plants simply did not regain their former vigor and rate of growth. Possibly, the chemical reac-

tion between the acetic acid and the alkali in the soil, calcium carbonate, formed calcium acetate and maybe other salts in the soil. I found it much more rewarding to discard severely affected plants and repot the remainder in fresh potting soil, substituting rain water for the tap water from the community source.

Discussion:

It has been said that any water that is fit for human consumption is satisfactory for watering your plants. Based on this experience, I would view this statement with a bit of caution and skepticism. Pure, distilled water should be neutral from an acid-base stand point, that is, have a pH of 7.0. I don't know what natural substances or chemical additives are present in our water supply to bring the pH to such a high level. However, gaseous chlorine is bubbled through the water to control bacterial growth before the water is supplied to the community. My guess is that this chlorine reacts chemically with some naturally occurring compounds that contain nitrogen to form ammonium chloride (NH₄Cl). This is a rather strong alkali and it could certainly raise the pH to such a high level.

Significant deviations of the soil pH from the recommended growing range adversely affects the biological availability of all plant nutrients. Some required nutrients are more inhibited when the soil becomes too acid and others are more inhibited when the soil is too alkaline. In any case, it is likely that there are multiple nutritional deficiencies operative when a plant does not thrive because of altered pH. It isn't a matter of increasing the concentration of available plant nutrients or supplying those that are thought to be deficient. Doing so simply will not work. African violets require a soil pH of 6.1 to 6.9 and this condition simply must be met for good plant growth. As has been said, more is not necessarily better.

It is not the purpose of this paper to alarm growers. If your plants are doing well, great. If, however, your plants are failing to thrive and all the proper growing conditions appear to have been met, it might be worthwhile to con-

sider the pH of the water supply.

Glossary

Acid: Literally meaning sour. A compound which in aqueous solution, undergoes dissociation with the formation of hydrogen ions.

Alkali: Any of a class of compounds which form soluble soaps with fatty acids.

Atom: The smallest particle of an element that is capable of entering into a chemical reaction.

Chlorosis: A form of chronic anemia due to iron deficiency.

Compound: Any substance made up of two or more kinds of materials.

Equilibrium: A state of balance; a condition in which opposing forces exactly counteract each other.

Ion: An atom or group of atoms having a charge of positive or negative electricity.

Ionization: The dissociation of a substance in solution into ions.

Solution: A homogeneous mixture of one or more substances dispersed molecularly in a quantity of dissolving material.

Acknowledgements:

I express my thanks to Dr. Jody Wilson for the photographs and to Martha Fincher for reviewing the manuscript.

ADDITIONS TO CONVENTION AGENDA

The **AVSA Booster Fund Table** will be open Wed., Apr. 22 - Sat., Apr. 25, 1992, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The **AVSA Building Fund Committee** will meet Wed., Apr. 22, 1992 from 9 - 9:30 a.m. In addition to the times published in the Jan./Feb. 1992 *AVM*, the **AVSA Building Fund Table** will be open Fri., Apr. 24 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The **AVSA Membership & Promotion Committee** meeting will be held Thurs., Apr. 23 from 9 - 11:30 a.m.

The **Affiliate Rap** will be held Wed., Apr. 22 from 3 - 4 p.m.

A Comparison of Leaf Anthocyanins In Genus *Saintpaulia*

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The members of the genus *Saintpaulia*, often referred to as African violets, are a closely related group of plants whose taxonomic relationships are not well understood. A study of leaf blades from members of this genus reveals that some plants have a striking red pigment on the backs of the leaves, while other members do not. This red pigment is a type of anthocyanin and is similar to leaf and flower pigments found in many other species of plants. Arisumi (1967) reported that *S. diplotricha* and *S. ionantha* and their hybrids contained the leaf anthocyanin Cyanidin - 3 - Sambuboside and the presence of this anthocyanin was inherited as a genetic dominant. The presence/absence of leaf anthocyanins in other members of the genus have not been recorded, nor has a previous study been done to see if the leaf anthocyanin, when present, is the same for all members of the genus.

The purpose of this study was to extract and compare the leaf anthocyanin in members of genus *Saintpaulia*. The hypothesis was that plants with red backed leaves would contain an anthocyanin. Plants with green or silver backed leaves would not contain an anthocyanin. Since many members of the genus are known to be interfertile and will hybridize with each other, (Clayberg, 1961; Arisumi, 1964) those plants that contain an anthocyanin will likely contain the same anthocyanin.

A collection of 27 *Saintpaulia* species and varieties was purchased from Cape Cod Violetry. The plants were grown under fluorescent lights (40w cool white) with a 14/10 hour day/night cycle. The plants were transplanted into larger pots as needed using a soilless potting mixture of peat moss, vermiculite, and perlite (3 : 2 : 1). The plants were watered twice weekly using 1/2 strength commercial fertilizers. The plants were rotated in position under the lights and were 6+ months old before testing. Many of

the plants were blooming and were considered fully mature at the time of testing.

The anthocyanin extraction method of Kokhar *et. al.* (1982) for African violet flowers was modified and used on the leaf blades. A mature leaf was removed from the plant and the blade was cut into pieces approximately one centimeter square in size. The pieces were placed in a test tube and covered with a methanol extracting solution containing 1% HCl (for increased anthocyanin stability). After several hours of extraction at room temperature, the solution was decanted and stored until analysis.

The extracts were deposited in parallel lanes on sheets of Whatman #1 chromatography paper (prewashed with a 1% HCl solution). A BAW solvent solution (n-Butanol, Glacial Acetic Acid, Water; 40;10;50, upper phase) was used to separate the extracts over a 14-15 hour period.

The chromatography papers were dried. The pigment spots were examined under natural and short/long ultraviolet lights. The colors and Rf values (rate of flow) were observed and recorded. The use of parallel lanes allowed a quick inspection of the leaf anthocyanins between different specimens - plants with the same leaf pigments would produce spots that were next to each other.

The results indicated that the 27 species and varieties of genus *Saintpaulia* could be divided into four groups. One criterion for division was the presence or absence of the leaf anthocyanin. The second basis for division was an unexpected find, the presence of one or two phenolic compounds that showed in the UV examination of the chromatograph sheets. These phenolic compounds were not entirely unexpected and their presence would not have been remarkable if all 27 plants had shown the same

pattern. Phenolic compounds have been used in identifying relationships between species in other genera (Kvist and Pedersen, 1986). Therefore, the detection of differences in phenolic patterns in genus *Saintpaulia* was thought to be a significant character for analyzing the data.

Fourteen plants (Table 1) were found to have a leaf anthocyanin and two phenolic compounds. Eleven plants (Table 2) lacked the leaf anthocyanin, but had the same two phenolic compounds. Two plants were found to contain only one phenolic compound (Tables 3 and 4). One plant, *S. teitensis*, had the single phenolic compound, but also contained the leaf anthocyanin. The other plant, *S. shumensis*, had one phenolic compound, but lacked the leaf anthocyanin. The results for these two plants were retested using leaves from plants grown in another collection. The results from the other plants were identical with those reported here. The leaf anthocyanin was found to be the same chemically in all 15 plants that had the pigment, although the quantity of the pigment varied greatly from plant to plant. The distribution pattern of the pigment within a leaf also varied. Some species had the entire blade pigmented while others had pigment only in the veins.

The results tend to support the theory that the members of genus *Saintpaulia* are closely related. What is still somewhat unclear is the organization of the genus into species and varieties. For example, the species *S. magungensis* has been divided into one species and two recognized varieties (*S. magungensis occidentalis* and *S. magungensis minima*). The leaf analysis data from this study did not place all three plants into the same group. *S. magungensis occidentalis* has the leaf anthocyanin, but the other two plants do not. If the presence of the leaf anthocyanin is a genetic dominant trait as reported by Arisumi (1967), how did *occidentalis* acquire this trait when the parent species and the other variety lack it? Perhaps *occidentalis* is unique enough that it should be considered a separate species of its own.

A similar problem can be noted between *S. diplotricha* and *S. diplotricha* Punter. In this case, however, it is the variety that lacks the anthocyanin pigment, not the original species. The *S. diplotricha* case is less problematical than the *S. magungensis* one, however, as it is much easier

to mutate naturally to *lose* a genetic dominant trait than it is to mutate to *gain* one.

The two plants that lacked one of the phenolic compounds, *S. teitensis* and *S. shumensis*, may well be the most unique and separate species of the entire group of 27 plants. The biological function of the missing phenolic compound is unknown, but its absence makes a very clear biochemical and genetic difference between these two plants and the other 25. These differences are reinforced by the breeding data, particularly in the case of *S. shumensis* (Clayberg, 1961) which does not hybridize readily with the other members of the genus. This indicates a high degree of separation between *S. shumensis* and the other members of the genus.

The presence or absence of the leaf anthocyanin may be a very powerful character for recognizing relationships between the members of genus *Saintpaulia*. The data from this study was used as part of a numerical taxonomy study of the genus. Numerical taxonomy uses the measurements of many characteristics to construct a statistical relationship pattern between the members of a group. The preliminary results of a numerical taxonomy study using 22 characteristics indicated that the 27 members of the genus could be separated readily into two main groups. The one character that was common to the members of each group was the presence or absence of the leaf anthocyanin. Undoubtedly some of the other characteristics contributed to the observed pattern in the numerical taxonomy results, but it is striking that the leaf anthocyanin character seemed to be a more powerful trait for organizing members of the genus than other characteristics (e.g., leaf size and shape, trailing habit, or number and type of hairs on the leaves).

The conclusion of this study is that 15 of the 27 members tested in genus *Saintpaulia* have a leaf anthocyanin while the other 12 do not. The presence of the leaf anthocyanin is likely a function of the natural habitat of the species where the anthocyanin pigment serves as a sunscreen against high light intensities. Plants with the anthocyanin are likely from more open sunny habitats while those without the pigment are from more shady areas. The presence of an identical anthocyanin pigment in these 15 plants supports the theory of a close genetic and

perhaps evolutionary relationship between them.

The different phenolic pattern of *S. shumensis* and *S. teitensis* suggests that these two plants may be significantly different from the other 25. It would seem unlikely, however, that these two plants are closely related to each other as they are very different in appearance and growth forms. Also, only *S. teitensis* contains the leaf anthocyanin. The missing phenolic compound may indicate a common biochemical pathway in both plants, not necessarily a genetic relationship.

The results of this study do not greatly clarify the taxonomic relationships between the members of this genus. If anything, the results indicate that some members of the genus may be misplaced in relationship to each other. *S. magungensis occidentalis*, for example, may need a closer evaluation for whether it is a variety or its own separate species. Use of the leaf anthocyanin and phenolic compound data may be very useful in further numerical taxonomy studies of the genus for evaluating the number of species and varieties within the genus.

Acknowledgements

This study was supported in part by the Boyce Eden Research Fund. Thanks to Dolores Larsen for supplying additional plants for analysis. The numerical taxonomy study was conducted by Mr. David Denton.

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Table 1: Plants with Leaf Anthocyanins and two Phenolics

<i>S. difficilis</i>
<i>S. diplotricha</i>
<i>S. goetzeana</i>
<i>S. grotei</i> - veins only
<i>S. grotei</i> Amazon - veins only
<i>S. intermedia</i>
<i>S. ionantha</i>
<i>S. magungensis occidentalis</i>
<i>S. nitida</i>
<i>S. tongwensis</i>
<i>S. velutina</i>
<i>S. velutina</i> Amazon
House of Amani
Sigi Falls

Table 2: Plants with no Leaf Anthocyanins and two Phenolics

<i>S. brevopilosa</i>
<i>S. confusa</i>
<i>S. diplotricha</i> Punter
<i>S. grandifolia</i>
<i>S. magungensis</i>
<i>S. magungensis minima</i>
<i>S. orbicularis</i>
<i>S. orbicularis purpurea</i>
<i>S. pendula</i>
<i>S. pendula</i> Kizare
<i>S. rupicola</i>

Table 3: Plants with Leaf Anthocyanins and one Phenolic

<i>S. teitensis</i>

Table 4: Plants with no Leaf Anthocyanins and one Phenolic

<i>S. shumensis</i>

* This paper is from a science fair project conducted by Ms. Ives. The project won several awards at the Oklahoma City Regional and the Oklahoma State Science and Engineering Fairs. The project also competed in the International Science and Engineering Fair held in Orlando, Florida.

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

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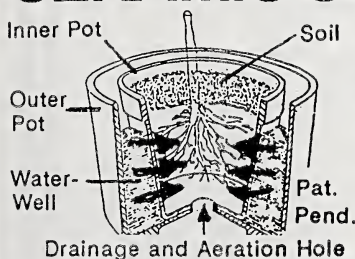
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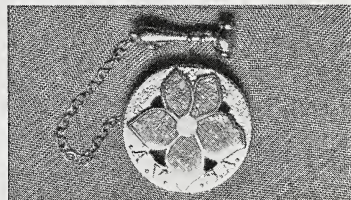
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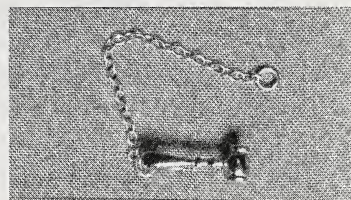
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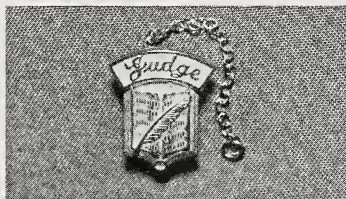
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4	Wh or Gr	RS/RT/SQ	2.40	4.25	9.50	17.25
4-1/2	Wh or Gr	RS/RT/SQ	2.60	4.75	10.50	19.00
5	Wh or Gr	RS or RT	3.10	5.70	13.00	23.00
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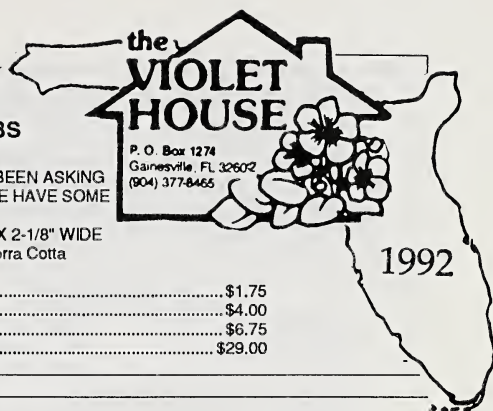
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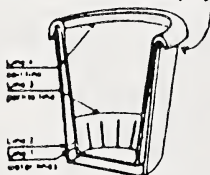
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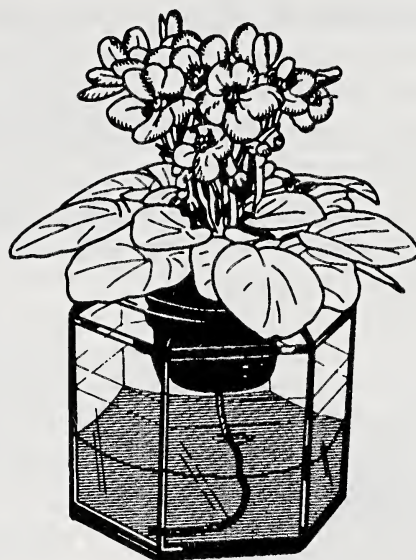
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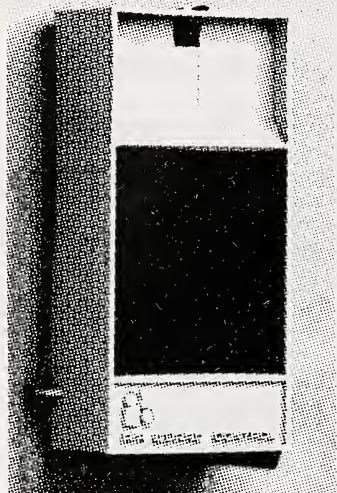
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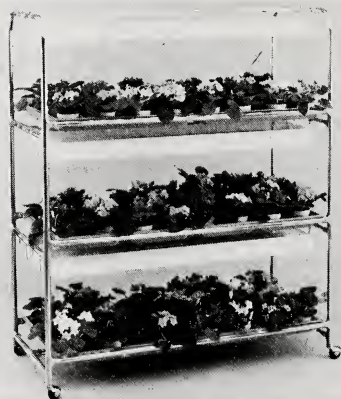
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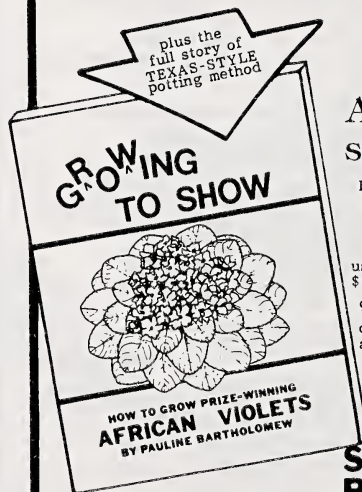
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CORAL MAGIC - Deep coral-red single to semidoubles mound like hot coals that magically glow with a richness of color in this heavy blooming variety. The long lasting mass of flowers is stunning above deep, dark green, flat tailored foliage with excellent symmetry.

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GRAND MASTER - Incredible raspberry edges decorate the medium blue stick-tite single stars that adorn the flat, tailored, medium green leaves of this show-quality variety. The amount of edging may be variable under different growing conditions. We will try to ship this variety either in bloom or after having proven true, but cannot guarantee the stability of the edges. An exciting new color combination, well worth trying.

INTERNATIONAL - Dark, tailored, perfectly formed show foliage, lighted with a gorgeous sheen, in an outstanding contrast to the great bloom clusters of open-faced, smooth edged, single to semidouble pansies of delectable light pink, stunningly trimmed with broad, bright raspberry edges. A variety sure to gain international acclaim!

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MIGHTY FINE - Exceptional substance marks the medium sized, long lasting blossoms on these mighty fine plants whose semidouble white pansies are delicately edged in red. The delightful bouquet of bloom is held sturdily aloft over broad, robust show foliage of light green.

SHAN (Miniature) - Bill was so delighted with this adorable miniature that he named it in honor of his beloved granddaughter. The abundant blossoms are doubles, dark blue-purple, with perky geneva edges. So pretty as they sparkle high above their small rosette of black-green, pointed leaves.

SIMPLY ROMANTIC - The romance of violets is personified in this variety whose large, fluted, light rose-pink stick-tite stars grace this delightful creation. The wonderful form of both the broad, light green foliage and the prolific blooms shows great vigor.

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Number 3

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

ON THE COVER — *Optimara® Harlequin*, a blue ribbon winner grown by Carroll Gealy of Westlake Village, CA, at the 1991 AVSA Convention/Show in Santa Clara, CA.

(Cover photo by Ernest Braun, Photographer, San Francisco)

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ADVERTISER'S INDEX

Trouble with an advertiser? Write your AV Advertising Manager giving complete details.
While AVSA cannot assume responsibility for advertisers, we try to help resolve the problem.
If an advertiser is found irresponsible, they will be refused future ads.



From the President's Desk

Dear Members,

Thank you for re-electing me for a second term as your president. It is a pleasure and an honor to serve AVSA and I assure you that I will do my utmost to justify your decision.

On behalf of the AVSA members, I would like to extend our congratulations on a job well done at our Columbus, Ohio convention, to:

Linda Owens, Convention Chairman

Emilie Savage and Ann Miller, Vice Convention Chairmen

Thelma Miller, Show Chairman

Mary Martin, Vice Show Chairman

and to all the many others that participated and donated their time in making this another successful AVSA convention — our sincere thanks.

If you were unable to attend the Columbus convention and the AmeriFlora '92, let me assure you they were outstanding. We had yellow violets, a beautiful show, informative workshops, wonderful banquets, entertainment galore and of course, and best of all, good friends.

It was all there. The AmeriFlora '92 will be going on until October 12, 1992, so if you're in the area — IT'S A MUST!

While I was at the AVSA Office in Beaumont, Texas, I had the privilege of renewing an old acquaintance with someone I hadn't seen in years, Grace Foote, former editor of the AVM. Gus Becker (former printer of the AVM) and his wife, Maxine, drove Ava and me to where Grace was staying and we were greeted with open arms. What a pleasure. We reminisced about past conventions, friends, and the good old times. It was an honor and a privilege seeing her again.

A story on Grace:

Grace knew we were coming, but when we arrived she had her hair up in curlers. She apologized for the curlers, but said she had to make a decision as to whether to look nice for our visit or for church the following morning — God won.

Remembering

AVSA President, A. Charles Bollar

Newsline: AVSA Beaumont Office

Nancy Lawrence, Office Manager

Dear Members:

We hope you are enjoying spring in your part of the country as much as we are here in Beaumont, Texas. Our African violets, in the office, are absolutely beautiful — with all of the credit going to the members of the African Violet Society of Beaumont. Our plants receive first class care every week; they know it, and they show it — in full bloom. Our plants are particularly excited right now, because there is a newcomer, you might even say a “star” on the scene — the Yellow African Violet, donated to the office by Nolan Blansit. Thank you Nolan, we are all excited and grateful.

UPDATED PAGES

FOR THE 1990 JUDGES HANDBOOK

In JULY, the office will have the updated pages for the handbook printed in 1990.

Cost - \$4.00

UPDATED PAGES

FOR THE 1992 JUDGES HANDBOOK

In JULY, the office will also have the updated pages for the handbook printed in February of 1992.

Cost - \$1.50

Cost is less for 1992 updated pages because the number of pages are fewer. The book was printed in February and a few additional changes were made at the Columbus convention.

WHEN ORDERING: Be sure to tell us if you have the 1990 book or the 1992. The books look exactly the same. The year is written at the bottom of the cover page. Write or call us if you have a question about your book.

AFFILIATED CLUBS NEEDING PROOF OF INSURANCE FOR A SHOW:

If your club is having a show and you are asked to provide proof of insurance, all you need to do is call our insurance agent:

Albert H Wohlers & Company

1-800-323-2106 - Ext. 267

Ask for Angela Przyzycki
(pronounced Shuh-zinsky)

or

Susan Iwan

FAX # is (708) 803-4649

There is no need to call the office because only the insurance agency can send you a Certificate of Insurance or an Additional Insured Statement. If the agency should tell you that your club is not on the list; then, most likely your club did not pay for the insurance last year, and we did not put your club on the list for 1992. Either that or your club membership expired. The agency informs us of problems, and we will contact the club in question.

AFFILIATE OFFICER INFORMATION:

Many clubs still do not inform us when they have a change in Presidents or other officers. We need this information, and when you do send it, please, please, please, include the officer's address and phone number. Some representatives just send in a name and title — we need the address to be able to change the records on computer.

In August, we will be sending out new affiliate information sheets, please keep them on hand for when you change your officers.

Happy Spring To All of You.

Jane's Journal

Jane Birge, Editor

How about that new **HousePlant Magazine**? Kudos go to Mark and Bonnie Branciaroli, Larry Hodgson and their fine staff for their beautiful premier edition. I hope all of you get a chance to see it. There is an ad for this great publication on page 60 of this issue.

Margaret Whitaker, RR 10, Box 959, Tyler, TX 75707 would like to have a list of planting dates for African violets. If anyone has such a list, please send it to her and if you have a spare copy, I would appreciate the list, also!

Randy Hillman, President of Glenview/Northshore AVS, 2609 W. 89th St., Evergreen Park, IL 60642, is looking for information (hybridizer, description, source, correct name) on the following plants: Bubblin Over, Fairy Queen, Fantasy Starburst, L'oiseau Bleu, Moonlight Maiden, Mosaic Peach, New Love, Parade, Popsicle, Suncoast Lusty, Suncoast Wedding Days, Tonka Omega and Twinkle. He says he can't find them in the MVL, so if anyone can help him, please do so.

Silvia Hartley, Rt. 1, Box 139AA, Glenwood, GA 30428 is willing to pay for plants, leaves, postage, etc. for Amazing Grace (Soult), Flamingo (Maas), Aloette (Fredette), Parisienne (Fredette), Christmas Holly (Reed), Polly Doodle (Fredette), Sanibel (Leary) and Shogun (Hummer).

I recently heard from **John Black of Planters International** of Cleveland Heights, OH who sent along a Water-Well Planter for the new AVSA Office. Thank you, John, the local club members will put it to good use.

David Buttram, P. O. Box 193, Independence, MO 64051 is looking for a complete set of AVMs. He would also like *any* variety that has "spooned" foliage, *i.e.*, My Darling or Pink Spoon. He doesn't necessarily want those varie-

ties, but ones that have the spooned foliage.

Mrs. Warren Shull, 233 South West Street, Stillwater, OK 74074 wants to know if there is anyone out there with a leaf or plant of Silver-tone. It's a 1984 hybrid from Granger Gardens and she saw it in a magazine some time ago and would like to have it.

I also want to send a thank you to **Alice Dowd**, editor of The African Violet Newsletter for The African Violet Society of Rochester, NY. She has put me on the mailing list of this very good affiliate publication.

You might want to look for the Gardening magazine put out by *Woman's Day*. I believe it will be on the newsstands through May. They have a section on plant societies — and The African Violet Society of America, Inc. is one of the featured groups. There are hundreds of plant societies in America, so I felt real pleased that we were included. It may be because we are the best plant society in America and beyond!

Well, I haven't received any new flags lately, so there's no one to thank. The flags look so nice in the AVSA office. I've had several promises — but no new flags.

I've had a great response to the plea for articles, but would always like to stockpile more; however, hybridizers — I NEED YOUR SLIDES - IMMEDIATELY. I work on two color sections at a time and they are submitted two to four months before they are printed — so don't delay — send them today.

You'll hear about the exciting Columbus convention in the July/August 1992 issue.

By the way, be sure and renew your membership — the next issue is going to be a big surprise and you won't want to miss it — the all-new, improved, low-fat and low-cholesterol *African Violet Magazine*!



AVSA Building Fund

Anne Jantzen
2725 Katrina Way
Mountain View, CA 94040

Author James Thurber said of his birthplace, "Columbus is a town in which almost anything is likely to happen and in which almost everything has." And what did happen? The AVSA Convention ... the yellow African violet ... AmeriFlora '92. But, best of all — you happened. You came by the Building Fund table and showed your support of AVSA by making a donation and earning the right to wear the proud emblem of the Building Fund. Convention is now a memory, but the needs of the Building Fund are not. The Building Fund is, indeed, like the maintenance of your own home and through your continued generous support, the Building Fund will meet the challenges of the 1990s and beyond.

Contributions from November 27 - December 26, 1991:

December, 1991

Don Thornburg, CA	15.00
Fancy Bloomers, CA	
in memory of Earl Bottemiller, husband of Hallie	25.00
Jefferson AV Assn., LA	25.00
Sugarloaf Mtn. VS	10.00
North Texas AV Judge's Council	
in memory of dear member,	
Vennielea (Sue) Whitfield	10.00
South Coast AVS, CA	
in lieu of speaker's fee to Carroll Gealy	25.00
Old Dominion AVS, VA	50.00
First Nighter AVS, TX	
in memory of Sue Whitfield	25.00
Jeanette Kreuger, IN	10.00
Douglas O. Root, NY	5.00
First Lakeland AVS, FL	25.00
Walter Spangler, FL	
in lieu of speaker's fee	
from Garden Club of St. Petersburg	25.00
AV Hobbyists of Sacramento, CA	25.00
Esther M. Kryst, PA	10.00
Anne Walker, CT	5.00
Springfield AVC, OH	10.00
San Joaquin AVS, CA	
in memory of good friend and long-time	
active member Bertha Beck	40.00

Total for the month - \$340.00

TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - \$76,085.59

Contributions from December 27, 1991 - January 28, 1992:

January 1992

C. Godin, Quebec	\$10.00
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Richmond AVS, VA	100.00
Supee Pojjananuvat, NY	10.00
First AVS of Dallas	
in memory of Sue Whitfield	25.00
Amethyst AVS, MO	10.00
Don Thornburg, CA	15.00
Anne and Johannes Jantzen, CA	
Hooray! Sara Anne is one today 6/9/92	10.00
Fancy Bloomers, CA	
in memory of Oliver "Bud" Dean	25.00
Marie Beeman, CA	
in memory of Oliver "Bud" Dean	25.00
Harriet Maddux, CA	
in memory of Oliver "Bud" Dean	10.00
Le Chateau AVC, MO	
in lieu of speaker's fee to Ardath Miller	15.00
Baltimore AVC	30.00
Wilma S. Davis, MD	20.00
Mollie Howell, FL	
in memory of Ruth Swartz	20.00
Dorothy Hann, FL	
in memory of a dear friend, Ruth Swartz	20.00
Columbia AVC	
in memory of Harry Clippard	25.00
Faye Wieditz, KS	10.00
Helen K. Girod, WI	5.00
Janet Fox, CA	10.00
Onalee H. McEwen, TX	20.00
Reginald N. Arrington, Jr., MD	15.00
Merle D. Brown, Thailand	50.00
Mrs. Robert C. Krumm, NY	5.00
William F. Barendt, IL	10.00
Lydia B. DeVillareal, Mexico	10.00
Mrs. Harvey Richter, Jr., WI	5.00
Berniel Weigt, MN	10.00
Emz N. Blancet, WA	15.00
Olive I. Gruppe, OH	5.00
Upper Pinellas AVS, FL	
in memory of Ruth Swartz	25.00
Edmond Cook - African Violets Supreme, CA	25.00
Gloria Rooks, FL	5.00
Joseph DeGregorio, NY	10.00
Lelia Siacor, Nederland, TX	20.00
Mildred A. Luth, CA	20.00
Frances L. Deans, NC	2.00
Canton AVS, OH	25.00
Peg Beck, IL	10.00
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Adams, CT	
in memory of Irene Traskers, Haddam, CT	25.00
Evening Bloomers AVS, IL	
in memory of Ruth Tiedemann	10.00

Total for the month - \$717.00

TOTAL OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - \$76,802.49

AVSA Commercials

A Closer Look

*David Buttram
P. O. Box 193
Independence, MO 64051*



THE VIOLET HOUSE

The first thing that strikes you about Dick Maduro, owner of The Violet House, is his broad, happy smile. Next, you notice the wheelchair he is confined to, making the smile even more meaningful.

Born in New Jersey, over 60 years ago, Dick and his family moved to New York, and then to Massachusetts, where he attended school. In

1943, a motorcycle accident caused permanent paralysis of both legs. After surgery, Dick was advised to go to Florida, to recuperate in the warmer weather.

In 1947, Dick was elected City Clerk and Treasurer of a little town on Florida's west coast, near St. Petersburg. He served in that capacity for 19 years. During that time, Dick



Ann and Dick Maduro of The Violet House, Gainesville, Florida



Ann Maduro dons a dust mask to mix components of the growing mix they package and sell. Mixing is done in an old bath tub.

became involved in wheelchair sports and was able to utilize his powerful upper body in basketball. He also competed in field events, such as the shot put, javelin and discus throw.

Ann, Dick's wife of 33 years, was a physical therapist from Michigan, who had also settled in Florida. A friend introduced her to the Soroptimist Club which sponsored wheelchair basketball. Ann remembers meeting Dick: "I transported the guys around and got to know Richard pretty well, and the old chemistry work, and we got married in 1958."

As Ann told how she transported and helped the wheelchair athletes, Dick reminded her that they needed someone to "shag" the javelins and discuses they had thrown. "But," Ann responded, "I enjoyed working him."

Dick's participation in wheelchair athletics took him to Rome in 1960 and Tokyo in 1964. Traveling around the world, Dick competed and represented the United States in 18 countries.

It was during this time that Dick met Justin Dart who was the son of the owner of Tupperware Co. Dar, who was also paralyzed, invited Dick and Ann to return to Japan to be in charge of Tupperware's wheelchair program. After selling all their possessions, the Maduros headed to the Land of the Rising Sun.

After returning from Japan, to Gainesville, Florida, in 1967, Dick got a job at a moving company where he met Jay Rice. Jay and his sister-in-law were interested in African violets and recruited Dick. Jay wanted to open a violet shop in an old house. "He asked me if I wanted to join him as a partner. I was a little tired of the moving business, so I said 'Okay' and we refurbished an old, old house and sold violets. First we started with 1,000, then 2,000 violets and we found out that we couldn't make a good living just on violets, so we advertised in the *African Violet Magazine* way back."

It was in 1975, that The Violet House's first ad appeared. A few orders came in. The ad was increased in size and the orders continued to



Dick Maduro displays a 16" plastic pot.

grow. When an ad taking two full pages appeared, business really took off. Early in the advertising, orders for supplies, outweighed orders for plants and The Violet House was in the growing supply business.

Dick bought Mr. Rice's interest in the business and about eight years ago moved into a large warehouse that had been built by the federal government in the early 1940s. About five years ago, Dick and Ann were able to buy the building.

Because the building is spacious — having some 5,000 square feet, the inventory can be placed on the floor rather than shelves. This allows Dick to move among the cartons to fill orders and move items as needed.

The supply business is primarily by mail, although a retail salesroom is open to the public at 1313 S. Main, Gainesville, Florida. The Violet House's 1992 16-page catalog carries a complete line of growing supplies for African violets and other plants. The line includes about one-half million plastic pots in all shapes and colors from 2" up to 16", plus insecticides, soil, sprayers and fertilizers.

The entrepreneurial spirit of Dick became evident when I asked what his goals for the future are. Quickly and without a pause, he replied, "To make more money." Dick and Ann immediately laughed at his answer. Actually, their goals are to provide prompt and reliable service to their customers. The monetary result is only secondary.

Occasionally, someone requests African violets from The Violet House. These are passed on to their long-time friend, Kathleen Harlin, also in Gainesville.

Dick and Ann send orders all over the world as people respond to their consistent advertising in five different horticultural and gardening magazines. Commercial members of AVSA since 1974, the Maduros are also commercial members of the Dixie African Violet Society, which affords them the opportunities to meet their customers and friends at conventions and shows across the country.



Dick and Ann Maduro on the front porch of The Violet House in Gainesville, Florida.

My interview with Dick and Ann was punctuated with laughter and light-hearted kidding. Both of these people are happy in their business. The rewards of satisfying their many customers are as gratifying as the financial side of the business. They truly complement each other; each giving from strengths to benefit the union. I personally admire these friends who bring the elements of a happy and fulfilled marriage to a successful business.

After my visit with Dick and Ann Maduro, I had to leave central Florida for the cold snowy weather in Missouri, but it was nice while it lasted.

Your comments and suggestions are always appreciated.

ATTENTION: AFFILIATES

Show writeups will now come under the heading of "Show Talk."

Send information to:

Darryl Hoover

912 S. Highland Ave.

Apt. C

Fullerton, CA 92632

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck
P. O. Box 38
Oreland, PA 19075

Contributors Please Note: When making a donation be sure to include the way you want your club's name listed in the AVM. Also, be sure and list the correct city and state where your club is located.

Donations received from November 20, 1991

- January 20, 1992:

Springfield AVS, MO	\$20.00
Crosstown AVC of Madison, WI	25.00
Jefferson AV Assn., Metairie, LA	25.00
Columbus AVS, OH	25.00
Sugarloaf Mountain AVS, MD	10.00
Bakersville AVS, CA	
in memory of John Verburg	5.00
Portland AVS, OR	
in memory of Joy Chapman	10.00
Portland AVS, OR	
in memory of Floyd Arms	10.00
Old Dominion AVS of Northern Virginia	25.00
Mrs. Greg AVC, St. Paul, MN	
given in place of Christmas gifts	10.00
Bakersfield AVS, CA	
in memory of Vera Robbe	10.00
Oshkosh VS, WI	25.00
Casper Bloomers AVC, WY	25.00
Barrington Bloomers, IL	10.00
William E. Billings, M.D., Alameda, CA	30.00
Valley AVS, McAllen, TX	25.00
Springfield AVC, OH	10.00
Lynnhaven AVS, Virginia Beach, VA	10.00
Pomona Valley AVS, CA	
in memory of Bernyce Schlepp	10.00
Don L. Thornburg, Oakland, CA	10.00
Baltimore AVC, MD	30.00
Loveland Sweetheart Violettes Society, CO	25.00
Portland AVS, OR	
in memory of Alan Baker	10.00
Zest of the West AV, Fort Collins, CO	15.00
Green Thumb AVC, Fayetteville, AR	10.00
Montgomery AV Study Club, AL	
in memory of Elinor Curtright	15.00
Oakville AVS, Ontario, Canada	10.00
Corpus Christi AVS, TX	40.75
Eleanor M. Bennett, Philadelphia	5.00
Mrs. Ross M. Lyons, Colorado Springs, CO	10.00
Patricia A. Hayden, Simi Valley, CA	10.00
Daniel & Elizabeth McConnell, Philadelphia	25.00
F. Eleanor Mattaliano, Bayonne, NJ	20.00
Mrs. G. E. Harmon, New York, NY	10.00
Margaret Califano, Latham, NY	10.00
June W. O'Neill, Philadelphia	10.00
Edna M. Snow, Chicago, IL	25.00
Lauretta M. McElwain, St. Cloud, FL	
in memory of my mother, Edith G. Lewis	10.00
Mrs. Delphine Espedal, Cosmopolis, WA	5.00
San Bernadino County AVS, Loma Linda, CA	50.00
Mrs. Edward Hill, Esko, MN	5.00
Suzanne Wybraniec, Reston, VA	10.00
Mrs. Cherie Brockbank, Victoria, Australia	10.00
Robert A. Piper, Brooklyn, NY	10.00
Amethyst AVC, Manchester, MO	10.00

Holtkamp Greenhouses To Award Rosettes

Holtkamp Greenhouses, Inc., is offering a rosette for the best Optimara® or Rhapsodie® plant exhibited in an AVSA sponsored show. In order to qualify for this award, your club must apply in writing three months in advance of your show to: Reinhold Holtkamp, Jr., Holtkamp Greenhouses, Inc., Optiflora, Inc., P. O. Box 78565, Nashville, TN 37207.

The Optimara Best of Show ribbon is 4-1/2 inches by 12 inches. In addition to the rosette, they will provide a sample case for each of the affiliates applying. The case will include the most recent Optimara poster, 50 sample pouches of the Optimara Violet Food, 15 I Love Violets bumper stickers, mail order catalogs and order forms. If a club wishes to add this award to its show, they should include it in the schedule and designate a class.

Let your club members know of this award, so they can start growing these plants for the next show.

Don't miss this opportunity to further challenge your members in the growing and showing of our favorite plant and America's favorite blooming houseplant.

—Lynda C. Welchel
San Antonio, TX

BEGINNERS COLUMN

*Kent and Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave.
Fremont, NE 68025*



The “Sporting” World of Violets

Since it's an Olympic year, it seems to be a good time to discuss the subject of African violet “sports.” There's no perspiration involved here, and talent has nothing to do with it. It's the curious habit of plants, including African violets, to sometimes change.

DEFINING “SPORT”

The words “sport” and “mutant” actually mean the same thing — a sudden change or variation from the original. In the violet world, we do generally use the word “sport” when referring to this phenomenon. It's a word that conjures up the idea of fun — football, baseball, and all that. On the other hand, there is something about the word “mutant” that conjures up thoughts of monsters in horror movies!

To quote the **Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges**, a sport is an offspring which “shows a marked change from its parents... due to changes within the chromosomes or genes. Sometimes when an African violet leaf is rooted, a plant which is radically different appears among the plants that are true to the parent plant.”

Poor cultural conditions may result in plants that grow and bloom somewhat differently. For example, blossoms with white edges may lose their edges during hot spells. Violets that normally have deep blossom colors may begin to pale. Lack of fertilizer, inadequate light, or

abnormal pH may cause foliage to lose vigor or color. These are not sports. Good horticulture can quickly restore a sickly plant to its original appearance. Sports involve a genetic change which is irreversible.

Sports may occur involving blossom shape and form, color or color-pattern. Sports may also involve changes in foliage type, form, color or size. Myriads of combinations of changes may occur as well.

WHY DOES IT HAPPEN?

With all the complexities involved in the genetic make-up of African violets, it is probably only natural that something goes haywire every now and then, and the unexpected comes about.

Most sports are simply a natural occurrence. Something in the genes breaks down or gets rearranged somehow, and the new plant displays characteristics unlike that of its parent. Perhaps some of these changes occur due to stress from environmental factors.

Some people have experimented with subjecting violets to various chemicals or to radiation in effort to accelerate the occurrence of sports, and hopefully to come up with some radically new traits. To our knowledge not much has actually been accomplished via this route.

Most of the really valuable sports that have

added to the heritage of the African violet have merely come along as surprises.

IMPORTANCE IN VIOLET HISTORY

Many sports are of negligible quality or uniqueness and should probably be discarded. However, on occasion, a sport can give rise to a lovely new cultivar, which might be something completely different from anything ever seen before. In the 100 years since African violets were found growing in the wild, sports have played an important part in developing the wide range of violet types and colors available to us today.

The first white-blossomed violet was a sport. The first double-blossomed violet was a sport. Many of today's variegated African violets trace their ancestry back to a cultivar called 'Tommy Lou,' with green-and-white foliage, which sported from the green-leafed 'White Pride.' 'Blue Boy,' one of the earliest hybrids, sported from its smooth tailored foliage to a completely new curly type with a light mark at the base of the leaf. The sport was named 'Blue Girl,' and any plant with this leaf is now described as having "girl" foliage.

The complex genetics of African violets have indeed given rise to all sorts of mutations through the years, many of which have given us totally unexpected surprises.

Recently, there has been much interest in the chimeras, or pinwheels, with stripes of color running through the centers of the petals. And the big excitement of this year is the long-awaited availability of the yellow violets, which are reportedly due to the mutation of blossom pigments, giving us colors that were only dreamed of before and were thought to be an impossibility.

LOOKING AT THE PROS & CONS

Sports usually pop up as a surprise. Some surprises are good, while others are not.

There are frustrations involved with propagating some of the more unstable types of violets. Oftentimes violets with fantasy blossoms

(those with streaks or speckles of color spread over another background color) will not bloom true to variety. A cultivar that should have pink blossoms with purple speckles may instead produce plants that bloom solid pink or solid purple. This is more or less to be expected with fantasies, unfortunately. This is most definitely not a desirable type of sport.

Similarly, other types of bicolor violets may occasionally revert to solid-color blossoms. This, too, is not what would usually be described as a desirable type of sport. Violets with blossoms combining white and some other color over light green foliage very commonly will throw sports that have darker green foliage with solid-color blossoms that have lost the white.

Fortunately, because of the different color of the foliage, these plants often can be identified when quite young. They then can be discarded before all the time and effort is put into growing them into mature blooming plants.

Just as foliage can change colors when sport-ing occurs, it can also change shape or form. Violets that should have smooth tailored foliage may suddenly appear with heavily ruffled, and sometimes unmanageable, foliage. Sometimes trailing violets which should have semiminiature foliage will suddenly have one part of the plant growing with standard-sized foliage resulting in an unattractive ungainly look. Some foliage changes may be pretty and desirable, but most of the time they are not.

On the good side are some of the wonderful surprises that turn up. And some of these are very dramatic. A couple of years ago, we noticed a light-foliaged plant in a tray of otherwise dark green plants. It was identical in shape, form and foliage pattern, but it was a much different shade of green. This plant was set aside and watched with much anticipation since the original cultivar is a favorite. When the sport did finally bloom it was a lovely full double white instead of the medium blue color that it should have been. That was a delight.

Favorite show plants may suddenly sport to

a new color or combination of colors, still exhibiting the growth habit and floriferousness that made the original variety such a joy to grow.

Gorgeous chimeras may turn up where least expected. These may be the best of the sports, since they usually have the same desirable growth pattern as the original, but with the beautiful pinwheel blossoms.

If the change is pleasant, consider it a good sport. If the change is irritating, consider it a bad mutant.

SOME RESPONSIBILITIES INVOLVED

This brings us to another point of consideration. What should you do when you have violets that sport? First of all, look at them with a very critical eye, determining whether they are indeed unique and attractive — and whether they should be kept or dumped.

If it is worth keeping, at least for a while, the plant needs to be properly labeled. Although some sports may be deserving, do not give an original name to all the mutants that come along. Most of the time, it is probably best just to label a plant as "Sport of _____" or as "_____ Sport." That's a completely honest way of labeling a plant as to what it really is. Just as hybridizers should name only the best of their seedlings, so must all violet growers show some restraint in applying completely new names to the "oddballs" that crop up now and then.

Some varieties do have a propensity to throw the same sport from time to time for a lot of different violet growers. If each of these growers were to apply a different name to their sport, there could be great confusion in the violet world. If a sport worthy of being named turns up in your collection, it is always wise to contact the hybridizer in case the same sport has already occurred and has already been given a name.

The name game is especially important if the grower ever wishes to exhibit a particularly beautiful sport in an AVSA judged show. It is a real temptation to give the mutant cultivar a

name and enter it, but this is not the correct thing to do. Ideally the plant should first be entered in a "new cultivar" or "sports and mutants" class. If it is awarded a blue ribbon, then it may deserve to be named.

There certainly are some frustrations in propagating African violets, hoping that they will come true and bloom the way they are supposed to, especially when dealing with some of the more genetically unstable bicolors and fantasies. This does put some responsibility on those who sell violets. Starter plants may not always bloom the way they are supposed to, and customers should be informed that this is a possibility, particularly with the bicolors and fantasies.

REJOICE

And yet, every now and then, as has happened so often through these 100 years of African violet history, something truly revolutionary, unique and worthwhile will turn up when it is least expected — like a gift from above. Some are great milestones. Some are just small and simple joys. It is all a part of what makes the hobby of growing violets such "sporting" good fun.

(Please note that we have a new address! We have relocated our business in a larger community, having closed our store in Arlington. We welcome your letters and comments, and especially any suggestions that you might have for future topics.)

Attention: Affiliates

New Affiliate Chairman:

Bob Green

997 Botany Lane
Rockledge, FL 33839

IN MEMORY

RUTH MEEK

Ruth Meek, 72, of Syracuse, NY, died February 10, 1992, after a brief illness. Mrs. Meek was a commercial grower and hybridizer of miniature African violets, developing the Meek's "Baby" series, such as 'Meek's Angel Baby,' 'Meek's Blushing Baby,' and 'Meek's Cordelia Baby.'

She was a member of the African Violet Society of Syracuse, served as president, headed many committees, offered workshops in design, culture or whatever was needed and participated fully in every capacity. She was also an active member of the New York State Society, was convention chair of several state conventions, chaired many committees, served as president and was currently serving as historian.

Mrs. Meek was an AVSA judge and served as chair of the national convention held in Syracuse in 1982.

By career, Mrs. Meek was a registered nurse and served for 18 years as director of the Syracuse office of the New York State Health Department, overseeing and supervising the development and operation of nursing homes. She retired in 1985.

An expert seamstress, she created the costumes for Helen Hayes in "The Glass Menagerie" with Julie Harris and Herbert Ross' debut as a dancer.

She also loved miniatures, other than violets, creating and furnishing a colonial dollhouse in her home.

Mrs. Meek is survived by a daughter, Leslie Meek, a son, Geoffrey, her mother, Sarah Watkins, a brother, two sisters, and a grandson, Cory Meek.

*Ethel W. Champion
Jim Wildman*

AUDREY ANN BUCHANAN

1927 - 1991

Audrey Buchanan was the owner of Patches and Pots for 18 years in El Cajon, CA. She died of a heart attack on September 15, 1991.

Audrey was an active member of the African Violet Society of America for the past 20 years. She was also active in the Balboa AVS for 20 years and the Heartland AVS for 14 years.

Audrey was a warm and gentle person who generously shared her knowledge with anyone who loved to grow African violets. She was my wife for 44 years and those of us who knew and loved her will greatly miss her.

In addition to her husband, Jim, she is survived by a son, James, Jr., two daughters and four grandchildren.

Jim Buchanan

BARBARA STIPSAK

The Baltimore AVC was greatly saddened by the death of long-time club member, Barbara Stipsak, on November 25, 1991.

Barbara served as Treasurer of our club for 25 years and was a totally dedicated member. She was a lifetime member of the Baltimore AVC.

She will be truly missed by her fellow club members.

Barbara is survived by her husband of many years, Bob. Our deepest sympathy goes out to him.

*Shirley Huffman
President, Baltimore AVC*

VINNIELEA (SUE) WHITFIELD

1903-1991

The First AVS of Dallas mourned the loss of their very dear member, Sue Whitfield, on November 1, 1991. Sue was 88 years old and

still an active member of the club. She worked part time retouching photos.

Sue loved violets with a passion and until recent years, attended the AVSA conventions regularly. She was a member of the First AVS of Dallas for many years, a member of Lone Star AVC, North Texas AV Judges Council and AVSA.

Sue was an inspiration to all of us and she will be greatly missed, but we are forever grateful for the many years she brightened our lives.

*Bill Foster
Mesquite, TX*

BERTHA BECK

A very special member of our club and violet friend recently died. Bertha had been a long time AVSA member and active club member and held the office of secretary for many years. Her love for violets was unending, and she was always willing to share and participate in club activities. She will be truly missed.

*Susan Bastianelli
San Joaquin AVS, CA*

RUTH TIEDEMAN

1907 - 1991

It is with great sadness that Twin Cities AVS announced the death of Ruth Tiedeman who died on November 27, 1991.

Ruth was a charter member of TCAVS, where she held several offices, and was awarded an Honorary Life Membership. She was a life member and past president of the Illinois AVS and was currently holding the position of IAVS Show Advisor. She was an active member of AVSA, attending conventions, and was an AVSA Master Judge.

Ruth loved flower and plant design, and was instrumental in encouraging many first-time entries in design. She was always more than willing to share her expertise with others, and

gave many programs on design for TCAVS and other AV clubs.

There are many, many people in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois whose lives were touched by this witty, warm, and gracious woman. We will all miss her.

In her memory, TCAVS is initiating the Ruth Tiedeman Memorial Award to be given annually at our show, to the Best in Design, starting with the 1992 show, to say thank you and we miss you, to our dear friend.

*Val Anderson
President
TCAVS*

BETTY SIMONE

Betty Simone died October 26, 1991, at the age of 80.

Betty will be remembered by her many friends, as a long-time grower of African violets. She was an active member of the 1st African Violet Society of Wichita Falls, Texas, for 18 years, spending two years as president.

She was as beautiful as the African violets she loved so much.

*Allene Peek
1st AVS of Wichita Falls*

REBECCA HARLAN

Rebecca Harlan died in Memphis, TN on January 20, 1992. She had been a member of the Memphis African Violet Society, and also the Bluff City African Violet Club, and was very eager to learn all she could about African violets.

She was a willing worker at our shows and a very kind and considerate person who will be missed by all.

*Peggy Adamson
President
Memphis AVS*

COMING EVENTS

MAY 1 & 2 WYOMING — Sheridan AVC show/sale, "Around the Maypole with African Violets — 100 Years of African Violets," St. Peters Episcopal Church Hall. May 1, 5 - 8 p.m.; May 2, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mary Ann Bennet, president.

MAY 1 & 2 CANADA — Stampede City AVS' sixteenth annual show/sale, "A Century of Violets," North Hill Shopping Centre, 16 Ave & 14 St., N.W., Calgary, Alberta. May 1, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.; May 2, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Erika Hargeshimer, show chair, 403-251-4947.

MAY 1 & 2 NORTH CAROLINA — AVS of Charlotte presents its 10th annual exhibit/sale, Eastland Mall (outside Penney's - lower level) 5471 Central Ave., Charlotte. May 1, 12:30 - 9 p.m.; May 2, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Public invited, free admission. For more information: Ingrid Pettypool, publicity chair, 704-542-0199.

MAY 1 & 2 NEW JERSEY — AVS of North Jersey's 24th annual show/sale, "A Century of Violets," St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 810 Broad St., Clifton. May 1, 3:30 - 8 p.m.; May 2, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free admission.

MAY 1 - 3 PENNSYLVANIA — Springfield AVS, Delaware County's 42nd annual show, "Our Garden of Violets," Springfield Mall, Baltimore Pike and Sproul Roads (Routes #1 and 320), Springfield. May 1, noon - 6 p.m.; May 2, noon - 9 p.m.; May 3, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Barbara Jones, 215-696-7206; Bettie Roth, 215-566-6772, show co-chairs.

MAY 2 MISSOURI — Heart of Missouri AVC will presents its 11th annual show/sale, "To Mother with Love," Biscayne Mall, Columbia. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Patrick Chrouser, show chair.

MAY 2 & 3 WISCONSIN — Oshkosh Violet Society's 12th annual show/sale, center court of Park Plaza Mall, downtown Oshkosh. Free admission, public welcome. May 2, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; May 3, noon - 4:30 p.m. For information: Kevin Degner, 414-426-3764.

MAY 2 & 3 PENNSYLVANIA — AVS of Philadelphia show/sale, "A Century of Violets," Plymouth Meeting Mall, upper level, Germantown Pike and PA Turnpike (Exit 25), Plymouth Meeting. Open to the public, May 2, 1 - 9 p.m.; May 3, noon - 4 p.m. Ray Rogers, chair. For more information: 215-836-5467.

MAY 2 & 3 CONNECTICUT — Silvermine AVS show/sale, "All Things Bright and Beautiful," Westport Nature Center, 10 Woodside Lane, Westport (Post Road to Kings Highway North, follow the signs). May 2, 1:30 - 5 p.m.; May 3, 1 - 4 p.m. Free admission, door prizes. For more information: Lynn Wallach, 227-5487.

MAY 2 & 3 CONNECTICUT — Naugatonic AVS show/sale, Boothe Memorial Park Hall, Main Street (Putney), Stratford (Exit 53S off the Merritt Parkway). May 2, 1 - 4 p.m.; May 3, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Public invited, no admission fee. Door prizes, plenty of parking. Roger Wheeler, show chair.

MAY 2 & 3 MISSOURI — Springfield AVS show/sale, South Oaks Centre, 3315 South Campbell, 1 - 5 p.m. Free admission. Hazel Hutchinson, president.

MAY 2 & 3 VIRGINIA — Old Dominion AVS of Northern Virginia's show/sale, "Saintpaulia Centenary - Ten Decades of African Violets," The Society of American Florists, 1601 Duke St., Alexandria. May 2, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; May 3, noon - 4 p.m. For more information: Terry Henderson, show chair, 703-237-7929, or Cathy Akers, publicity, 703-490-4312.

MAY 2 & 3 CANADA — First Halifax AVS show/sale, "Violets Out of Africa," Lord Nelson Hotel, South Park St., Halifax. May 2, 2 - 5 p.m.; May 3, 10 a.m. - 4:30 P.M. A door prize will be awarded.

MAY 2 & 3 NEW YORK — Paumanok AVS show/sale, Saint Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church, Shrine Place & Pulaski Road, Greenlawn. May 2, 2 - 6 p.m.; May 3, 1 - 5 p.m. Gloria Rutmayer and Jane Weber, show co-chairs.

MAY 2 & 3 WISCONSIN — Brew City Violeteers show/sale, "Violets Cruise to Paradise," Southgate Mall, 3333 S. 27th St., Milwaukee. May 2, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; May 3, noon - 5 p.m. Admission free to the public. John and Sue George, show co-chairs.

MAY 2 & 3 CALIFORNIA — San Joaquin AVS show/sale, "Violets International," The Mall at Weberstown (next to Weinstocks), 4950 Pacific Ave. at March Lane, Stockton. May 2, noon - 9 p.m.; May 3, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Public invited, free admission. For information: Susan Bastianelli, show chair, 209-931-5070.

MAY 2 & 3 PENNSYLVANIA — AVS of Lower Bucks County's 18th annual show/sale, "Violets - 101," Oxford Valley Mall, Route 1, Langhorne. May 2, 1 - 9 p.m.; May 3, noon - 6 p.m. Free admission. For more information: Joyce McMullen, show chair, 215-752-2554 or Sandi Smith, 215-946-8459.

MAY 2 & 3 MISSOURI — Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council's 38th annual show/sale, "100 Years of Violets," Missouri Botanical (Shaw's) Garden, 4344 Shaw Boulevard, St. Louis. Open to public, May 2 & 3, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Marilyn Evensen, show chair.

MAY 2 & 3 CALIFORNIA — Ventura County AVS show/sale, "100 Bloomin Years of Violets," Commercial

Building, Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura. Please enter through gate 6. May 2, noon - 5 p.m.; May 3, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission and parking free, open to the public. Jean Shipley, show chair.

MAY 7 - 9 OHIO — Violets & Friends AVC show/sale, "Calendar of Violets," Miami Valley Centre, Interstate 75 and Route 36, Piqua. May 7, 1 - 9 p.m.; May 8 & 9, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Public invited. For more information: Mrs. Richard Statler, chair, 513-492-6588 or Mrs. Carl Brown, 513-492-0728, cochair.

MAY 7 - 9 CANADA — The AVS of Calgary show/sale, "Violet Reflections," Chinook Center, 6455 Macleod Trail S.W., Calgary, Alberta. May 7 & 8, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; May 9, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

MAY 8 & 9 CANADA — AVS of Central Alberta show/sale, "A Symphony of Violets," Parkland Mall, Red Deer, Alberta. Elaine Neilly, show chair.

MAY 8 & 9 MARYLAND — Baltimore AVC's 38th annual show/sale, "A Century of Violets," Towson Marketplace, Joppa & Putty Hill roads, Towson. May 8, 1 - 9 p.m.; May 9, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission. For more information: Marie Burns, 301-682-5473 or Margaret Harcourt, 301-686-2824.

MAY 8 & 9 TENNESSEE — Mid-South AVS show/sale, "Violets Tour Italy," Mall of Memphis. Both days, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Free admission.

MAY 8 & 9 OHIO — Parmatown AVC's 32nd annual show, "Ohio Sunset with African Violets," Parmatown Mall, 7899 West Ridgewood Drive, corner of Ridge and Ridgewood Drive, Parma. May 8, 12:30 - 9 p.m.; May 9, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

MAY 8 & 9 WISCONSIN — Fox Valley AVC's 12th annual show/sale, "Calendar of Violets," Avenue Mall, 10 College Ave., Appleton. May 8, 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.; May 9, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information: Geraldine Wilz, 414-734-3198.

MAY 8 & 9 OREGON — Mothers Day Plant Sale, Eastport Plaza Shopping Center, west end of the mall (front entrance), 4050 SE 82nd (near Holgate Blvd.), Portland. May 8, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; May 9, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free admission. For information: Charlotte Smith, 503-771-5762 or Jeanette Florke, 503-630-7790.

MAY 8 & 9 NORTH CAROLINA — Green Thumb AVS show/sale, Carolina East Mall, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Greenville.

MAY 8 & 9 NORTH CAROLINA — The First Goldsboro AVS show/sale, "Remembering with Violets," Berkeley Mall, Berkeley Blvd., Goldsboro. 9 a.m. - 9:30 p.m., both days. For more information: Lorena Bunn, 919-747-8917.

MAY 8 - 10 MISSOURI — Sho-Me AVC show, "Violets, Stars of the Silver Screen," Loose Park Garden Center, 5200 Pennsylvania, Kansas City. May 9, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; May 10, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sylvia Prince, show chair; Kitty

Julian, president.

MAY 8 - 10 ILLINOIS — The African Violet Fanciers, Inc. sale/display, Cherryvale Mall, I-90 Exit & Harrison, Rockford. Florise Hogan, president, 815-397-2000.

MAY 9 NEBRASKA — Omaha AVS show/sale, Southroads Mall. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information: Mary Krebs, show chair, 402-331-5498.

MAY 9 TEXAS — AV Study Club of Houston plant sale, Westwood Mall (Hwy 59 & Bissonnet), Houston. Hours will be from 10 a.m. until sold out.

MAY 9 & 10 VIRGINIA — Tidewater AVS' 10th annual show/sale, "Let's Celebrate, Violets for all Occasions," Norfolk Botanical Gardens, Norfolk (take airport exit off I-64 and follow city signs to gardens). May 9, 2:30 - 5 p.m.; May 10, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Entrance to gardens, \$2.00; show is free. For more information: Carol Van, 804-851-2543 or Pat Knight, 804-851-2115, show cochair.

MAY 9 & 10 KANSAS — Bright Petals AVS show/sale, Gold Room, Holiday Inn, 3017 10th, Great Bend. May 9, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.; May 10, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission.

MAY 9 & 10 NEW YORK — AVS of Rochester show/sale, "African Violets Get Hooked on the Classics," Garden Center of Rochester, 5 Castle Park (off Reservoir near the corner of Mt. Hope Blvd.), Rochester. May 9, 2 - 6 p.m.; May 10, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Public invited. Doug Burdick show chair. For information: 716-244-3375.

MAY 9 & 10 ALABAMA — The Pride of Enterprise AVS show/sale, "Blasting Off with Violets," Morgan Square Mall, Enterprise. May 9, noon - 8 p.m.; May 10, 1 - 5 p.m. For more information: Tony Collins, show chair, 205-299-3890 or Keith Judy, cochair, 205-598-2617.

MAY 14 - 17 MONTREAL, CANADA — AVSC Annual Convention/Show, "Violette Montreal," Le Chateau Champlain Hotel, 1, Place du Canada Montreal, Que. H3B 4C9. Registration: May 14, 1 - 9 p.m.; May 15, 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Show hours: May 15, 2 - 9 p.m.; May 16, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; May 17, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Information and/or registration, contact: Convention chair, Claude Rivest, 276 Martin, Repentigny, Que. J6A 1J2. Phone: 514-582-3043.

MAY 16 & 17 CALIFORNIA — AVS of South Bay show/sale, "African Violet Gems," Westgate Shopping Mall, corner Saratoga and Campbell Ave., San Jose (near Ross Store). May 16, 2 - 9 p.m.; May 17, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. For more information: 408-379-1859.

MAY 16 & 17 NEW YORK — AVS of Syracuse show/sale, "A Century of Violets," Shoppingtown Mall, Interstate 481, Exit 3, Dewitt. May 16, 2 - 9 p.m.; May 17, noon - 5 p.m. Free admission, open to the public. For information: Richard Gundlach, 315-455-2963.

MAY 23 & 24 ALASKA — Aurora Borealis AVS show/sale, "A Century of Violets," Northway Mall, Anchorage, during regular mall hours. Open to public, free admission. For more information: Helen Krumrey, president, 907-333-5949 or Lucy Moody, show chair, 907-594-9374.

MAY 24 CANADA — Toronto AVS show/sale, "Out of Africa," Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens, 777 Lawrence Ave. E. Don Mills, Ontario; 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission - \$1.00; Jean Hamilton, show chair.

MAY 30 & 31 NEVADA — Reno/Sparks AVS show/sale, "April Showers Bring May Flowers," Park Lane Mall, corner of Plumb and South Virginia. May 30, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; May 31, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. For more information: Carol Marks, 702-358-5677.

MAY 30 & 31 CALIFORNIA — The AVS of San Francisco's show/sale, "Discover the New World of Violets," San Francisco County Fair Building (formerly the Hall of Flowers), Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way, San Francisco. May 30, sale, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., show, 2 - 5 p.m.; May 31, Sale & show, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The new and rare yellow African violet will be featured in a display of new 1991 and 1992 varieties. Free admission, convenient public transportation includes MUNI #44, #71 and the N-Judah Metro. Visitors from the East Bay may take BART to the Embarcadero Station and transfer to MUNI's N-Judah street car. Get off at 9th Ave. and walk north one block to

Lincoln Way. Gary Beck, show chair, 415-771-2342. For more information: Christine Johnson, 510-758-6613 or 415-957-0977.

JUNE 6 NEW JERSEY — AVC of Burlington County show/sale, "Forever Violets," Burlington Center Mall, Rte 541, Burlington. 1 - 9 p.m. For more information, 609-877-8696. Laurel Brown, president. Susan Arnao, show chair.

JUNE 12 & 13 WISCONSIN — The African Violet Fanciers, Inc. sale/display, Beloit Mall, Rt. 51, North Beloit. Florise Hogan, president, 815-397-2000.

JUNE 14 CALIFORNIA — Bellflower AVS sale/display, Huntington National Bank, 9025 Artesia Blvd., Bellflower. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission, public welcome, plenty of parking. For more information: Yvette Homan, 310-420-8866.

JUDGING SCHOOLS

MAY 17 NEVADA — The Reno/Sparks AVS will be sponsoring an AVSA approved Judging School. Barbara Elkin will be the teacher. For more information, contact: Carol Marks, 702-358-5677 or Jann Selleck, 702-851-4824.

AVSA Booster Fund

*Ruth Warren
P. O. Box 3664
Fall River, MA 02722*

AVSA sincerely appreciates the response to the Booster Fund in completing full payment for the computer and printer for the office. I personally thank each and everyone. It is possible to accomplish many things when we all make some commitment, sacrifice, contribution and support to AVSA. It is our interest in our beloved African violet that brought us together and made us "violet friends."

Don Thornburg	\$10.00
Hans & Everdina Inpinj	
in memory of Cecilia Gonnoud	20.00
Hans & Everdina Inpinj	
in memory of Dr. Theodore Berg	20.00
Nutmeg State AVS	
in memory of Irene Traskers	25.00
Marge Fargeot	
in memory of Irene Traskers	25.00
Baltimore AVC	30.00
Inner City AVS	
in memory of Lois Russell	50.00

Green Thumb AVC	10.00
Ruth E. Warren	
(Boston convention)	7.00
Amethyst AVC	10.00
Beatrice Jones	10.00
Geraldine Sanders	10.00
Vincent Gonnoud	
in memory of Cecelia Gonnoud	25.00
Mary Lester	20.00
Pittsburgh VS	20.00
Florence DiLiberti	10.00
Julius & Belle Gorkin	5.00
First AVS of Dallas	
in memory of Sue Whitfield	25.00
L. T. & Yvonne Ozio, Jr.	
in memory of Forest Edwards,	
father of Esther Edwards Wells	20.00
Ruth E. Warren	
in memory of Forest Edwards,	
father of Esther Edwards Wells	20.00
Thimble Island AVS	25.00
Genola cox	
in lieu of speaker fee - Brew City Violeteers	25.00

"Experience" — A Great Teacher!

Lucille Prutsman
Rt. 4 Box 39
Nashville, NC 27856

I have raised beautiful African violets during the 25 years I've been involved in the hobby, but several years ago I began having problems with yellowing leaves. Not only the older leaves, but the color of the entire plant was not the rich, dark green of other club member's plants. In spite of this, there was plenty of bloom.

Then I began seeing watery looking areas in the leaves, sometimes only along the edges, often in a mottled, erratic pattern seen only from the underside of the yellowing leaf. At certain times of the year, there was less, especially in autumn after a summer of fans or air conditioning being used.

I searched all my violet information, finding no clue on solving it. Leaves were sent to my State Department of Agriculture and even they found nothing. As leaves deteriorated, they had to be removed, so my 500 plant collection was fast becoming extinct. Friends recommended more fertilizer, more lime, their soil mix or less fluorescent light. I tried them all — nothing worked. Other club members used city water, but I used well water. None of them had this problem, so I was certain it must be my water. I changed the pH of my water to the recommended 7.0 by the addition of chemicals for an extended period. Still no change.

In desperation, I sent plants and leaves to Ronn Nadeau for analysis. That was the best \$10 I ever spent, although at the time, his report of botrytis seemed far-fetched, especially since he recommended I start over. Botrytis, a fungus, lives *inside* the plant. Every article I had read on this ailment said the plant center would become gray and rot and I never saw any of that. I had been seeing "crazy" blooms with petal tips remaining curled inward and dark reds and purples showing grayish white areas

throughout the bloom along with hairy plant centers that didn't grow. I had seen this "watery" leaf problem, accompanied by yellowing on plants at a commercial grower. Perhaps this type of botrytis is more common than previously thought.

Then along came the March/April 1991 issue of the *African Violet Magazine* with the "A Fungus Among Us" article in the Beginners Column, written by Kent and Joyce Stork. That was it! Botrytis blossom blight caused by too cool night temperatures, too high humidity and lack of air circulation. I had to discard many, many plants before getting to the bottom of the problem, but that is the only sure way of exterminating any plant problem.

One day, I visited a friend who grew gorgeous violets. She used a mix adding perlite to lighten it. I had been getting such poor quality sphagnum peat moss, I switched to her mix. I also purchased a pH meter to make sure I had a perfect mix. I had grown violets for years without owning a meter. Well, in order to get the correct pH of 6.5-6.8, I found it necessary to add a very large quantity of peat. It seemed like a lot, but that is what the meter registered.

So, on I went with my "perfect" mix, transplanting hundreds of plants into it. Immediately, something was wrong. Plant centers turned yellow, centers stopped growing and small leaves became very wrinkled or cupped. The whole plant looked so distressed, many went in the trash.

About this time, we went on vacation for a week. The day we arrived at our destination, 500 miles away, my son called with the disturbing news, "the air conditioner quit." Violets in North Carolina do not do well in the summer with no air conditioning and mine were no

exception. The plants survived with fans circulating the air, but not well.

I have now returned to way I grew violets when I had such nice ones, using Lyon's mix, rooting leaves in vermiculite/perlite, and using Rapid Gro. Yes, I repotted hundreds *again* and the plants are looking and blooming much better. I almost forgot one important detail: the new pH meter I used never had worked correctly. This wasn't discovered until compared with the reading on a friend's meter after my plants had been growing in the incorrect mix for three months.

They say experience is a great teacher; if so, I certainly should have learned a lot. By running fans constantly, setting the night temperature at 66 degrees, days at 70, controlling excess humidity and spraying with Daconil (1/4 tsp. to quart of very warm water plus drop Ivory), my plants are now a rich, dark green and I am looking forward to many more beautiful violets

Important Notice: Senior Judges

If your Senior Judge certificate expires this year, you may apply for the renewal examination between June 1 and September 1, 1992. Allow up to two weeks for delivery. Write to Mrs. Frances C. King, 3327 28th St., San Diego, CA 92104. The fee is \$3.50 (make check payable to AVSA). The deadline for returning the completed examination for grading is October 1, 1992.

Those Advanced Judges who meet the requirements and wish to apply for their first Senior Judge examination, send check for \$3.50 to Mrs. King. Also send the following items of documentation of eligibility per AVSA Handbook: 1.) list of judging schools attended, grades, etc., 2.) signed schedules of five AVSA shows judged, and 3.) a 3" x 5" card verifying three blue ribbons earned. These items will be returned if a self-addressed stamped envelope

is included.

Allow up to three weeks for delivery. Applications postmarked after September 1, 1992 will be returned and application may be made next year. Completed exams postmarked after October 1, 1992 will not be graded. Allow three weeks or more (after October 1, 1992) for grading and return of examination.

New AVSA Life Members

New AVSA Life Members since the May/June 1991 issue of the African Violet Magazine are:

Gary R. Beck, San Francisco, CA; Virginia Ellis, Camarillo, CA; Ruth M. Foust, Winters, CA; Mary Gregory, Hawthorne, CA; Rebecca Jackson, Santa Rosa, CA;

Charlene Francis, Gainesville, FL; Bonnie Klein, Melbourne Beach, FL;

Eric Summers, Middletown, MD;

Linda Golubski, Blue Springs, MO; Kitten Lawless, St. Louis, MO; Stephen Charles Wells, Liberty, MO;

Jill Larson Cottrill, Butte, MT;

Richard J. Labanowski, Pine Island, NY;

Alice Easter, Philadelphia, PA;

Deborah W. Grant, Summerville, SC;

Betty Tracy, San Antonio, TX;

Jacqueline Pitt, Southampton, Bermuda;

Dorothy Owens, Canada; Elizabeth A. Rousseau, Canada;

Dr. Paul Birch, England;

Dr. Lee Wai Luen Stephen, Hong Kong;

Osamu Tokugawa, Japan;

Winston S. Marchant, Cape South Africa.

**Let's Meet
In Lancaster, PA
In 1993**



mini - tidbits



Florence Naylor

2647 Harbor Boulevard, Ventura, CA 93001

The response to the 25 Favorite Miniature and Semiminiature lists has been steady. I've heard from East and West coasts and in between. Results of the survey will be printed in the July/August AVM.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce committee member - Carroll Gealy. Carroll won Best in Show with *Falling Snow* at the 1991 Santa Clara AVSA convention. Here are her thoughts on foliar feeding:

"For me, the one procedure that makes that special difference between a very good African violet and a great one, is a good foliar feeding program. I'll explain.

"Back in the winter of 1982, many of my TL variegated plants became too anemic — completely white or pink in the center. Growth had slowed to a standstill. Some even wilted and died. I felt there had to be a way to get them back on track. Thus began my experiment with foliar feeding.

"I started with 1/4 tsp. of fish emulsion to a quart of warm water — once a week. Soon, my variegated plants began to grow again. Greener leaves appeared in the centers. The immediate response was amazing. In a few weeks, all of my plants were looking so much more healthy and vibrant.

"After trying different combinations, I finally settled on Rapid Grow or sometimes orchid fertilizer (30-10-10), both with 0.10% chelated iron (at the same 1/4 tsp. per quart).

"I mist when the lights are on so that the plants are dry by the time the lights go off. The water comes from a reverse osmosis unit so that

it is fairly clear of minerals. My feeding schedule is twice a week, beginning about six months before a show. As soon as the blossoms start to open, I stop the foliar feeding.

"I use this same fertilizer mixture to wash my plants, but add a spreader (surfactant). This mixture cleans the foliage better and does not leave "water spots."

"It has been my experience that foliar feeding does not cause the leaves of naturally small plants to grow larger. Some small plants will grow larger leaves no matter what you do. But, a good consistent small variety will grow with vigor and become more hardy, yet maintain the same small growth pattern, even with foliar feeding.

"I must warn you, though, crown variegated plants CANNOT be foliar fed. Crown variegation is not popular in Southern California because these plants do not stay variegated. I love *Bogeyman* in spite of its crown variegation, so I am always careful to remove it from the shelf before foliar feeding."

I was delighted to hear Marie Burns discuss her foliar feeding program at the Orlando convention in 1987. There is considerable debate in Southern California on the merits of foliar feeding. I only know that it works for me. Conditions and climates differ, so let us hear about foliar feeding from your part of the country.

More from our committee members next time.

Send me your spring show winners. It's nice to know what everyone is growing and showing.



AVSA AFFILIATES

*Irene Merrell
Affiliate Chairman
W283 Hillendale Drive
Oconomowoc, WI 53066*

This is crunch time (January) for me: reports, budget, this column, plus shipping show packets and multi schedules arriving daily. To make the affiliate chairman's job a little lighter, I would like to make a checklist for you:

1. Show schedules are to be sent to the affiliate chairman for approval. Be sure to check to see who he/she is.

2. Whether you send a draft or final schedule for approval, send a check for \$5.00 made out to AVSA for the Award Packet. The fee is to partially cover the cost of ribbons, postage, and all the important papers you need for your show.

3. Review AVSA rules in the AVSA Handbook and the Shows and Judges column in the AVM for current up-dates and changes. This could be a club program before your schedules is written, conducted by an AVSA judge or your show chairman. Use it as an opportunity to learn something new or to jog the memory.

4. Your affiliate chairman has a packet for starting new clubs, sends out new charters with a free "Guide for Presidents and AVSA Representatives," and sends out certificates for those affiliates whose membership is 100% AVSA affiliated.

5. Upon receipt of \$1.50 in a check made out to AVSA, we will send out to any club (or member) requesting a "Guide" for your president or AVSA representative.

6. Don't let the AVSA Awards become "old hat" and taken for granted. They should be earned with pride and a feeling of accomplishment by following the simple rules AVSA has set up for an AVSA affiliate show or convention show.

7. Become familiar with the inside cover of

the AVM — "Strictly Business — Your Business" — it's there for you.

As Mildred Schroeder said to me when I took on this job, "It is a big, big, big, big job," and indeed it is. I have learned from this experience and have enjoyed being in contact with and getting better acquainted with you. May you all have the very best shows you are capable of — quality not quantity. Be kind and considerate to your fellow club members and to the new affiliate chairman, Bob Green. Be patient with us during the transition. I want to thank all of you for letting me be a part of your "violet life."

POET'S CORNER —

THE VIOLET

Violets on the windowsill
Remind me of the pleasure
When first I met a group of friends
The violet brought together.

Violets on the windowsill,
Ribbons shining in the sun
Red, Blue, White, too.
But none, like the first one won.

A.P.

NEW AFFILIATE CHAIRMAN:

Bob Green
997 Botany Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955

Registration Report

*Iris Keating
149 Loretto Court
Claremont, CA 91711*



A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00.

REGISTRATIONS

Nancy Johnston - Bakersfield, CA

***ANGEL'S HALO (7652) 1/9/92 (N. Johnston)**

Single hot pink sticktite pansy/fuchsia eye, wide white edge. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Standard**

***SONG OF SUMMER (7653) 1/9/92 (N. Johnston)**

Single-semidouble rose-pink pansy/darker center. TL variegated dark green and rose, quilted, pebbled. **Miniature**

***WHEELS OF FORTUNE (7654) 1/9/92 (N. Johnston)**

Single chimera rose-pink large fringed star/white stripe. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Standard**

REGISTRAR'S NOTE: (7655) Registration has been deferred at the hybridizer's request.

Frank Tinari - Huntingdon Valley, PA

***CENTENNIAL FLARE (7656) 1/22/92 (F. Tinari)**

Double dark burgundy. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted/red back. **Standard**

***CENTENNIAL PURPLE (7657) 1/22/92 (F. Tinari)** Semidouble dark purple ruffled large. Medium green, heart-shaped, serrated. **Standard**

***CENTENNIAL SPARKLER (7658) 1/22/92 (F. Tinari)**

Single vibrant pink/darker center. Dark green, heart-shaped, glossy/red back. **Standard**

***CENTENNIAL THUNDER (7659) 1/22/92 (F. Tinari)**

Single white ruffled large/lavender-tinged center ring, edge. Medium green, heart-shaped. **Standard**

Raymond Britton - Santa Cruz, CA

***RAY'S DELIGHT (7660) 1/24/92 (R. Britton)**

Single fuchsia rayed/some fine white edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Beverly Promersberger - Leesville, LA

* Cotton Patch * Morning Star * Paisley Plum * Tatoo

Rose Hammond - Greenville, TX

* Beautiful Marcia * Laura Laura * Miss Brianne

Ruth Bann - Fridley, MN

(Each of the following is preceded by the name Rebel's): * Blueberry Spinner * Clown * Fantasy Spinner * Frosted Kiss * Frosted Raspberry * Frosted Snow * Gingham Elf * North Star * Peachy Frills * Snowy Bright * Swirlique * Whirlabout

Read Label Before "Feeding"

Irene Fredette
1545 Whitney Ave.
Hamden, CT 06517

There is a growing body of evidence which suggests that African violets are frequently dosed with improper "medicines" and given ineffective diets simply because the grower has no clear idea as to what is being administered or why. No one would dream of tossing an apple, an onion, and a walnut into a bag and labeling it "fruit." Yet such a practice is not uncommon among growers who regard diverse and dissimilar products as "fertilizers."

Inorganic fertilizers or plant foods are required specifically to list the nutrients and the consumer can readily see the quantity of major nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) contained in various brands. Secondary elements and trace elements, if present, may also be indicated. No listing is mandatory for organic fertilizers and soil additives such as blood meal, manure, kelp, cottonseed meal, etc.

All too often, root promoting substances are confused with fertilizers. One grower wrote: "I have been foliar feeding with Brand X and it really improved my show plants. But there is something else which makes the foliage look a bit dull this year." She had been spraying her large plants with a hormone solution formulated for stimulating root production in cuttings and the leaves probably looked dull from dried residue. The benefits she cited were either imaginary or the result of increased humidity and more attention to those plants. Healthy, mature plants have an adequate root system which needs no further stimulation which may actually harm the plant. And one does not properly stimulate root production by applying the stimulant to leaves.

Some products are concerned with auxin/hormone activity. Common hormones or auxins or growth regulators, *i.e.*, root promoting substances — include naphthaleneacetic acid

(NAA), indolebutyric acid (IBA) and 2-4 dichlorophenoacetic acid. Often thiamine hydrochloride (vitamin B-1) is added. Virtually all products which initiate and stimulate root production — *Hormex, Superthrive, Rootone, Dip 'n Grow, Allegro, Science Vitamin B-1*, etc. — contain one or more of these regulators or hormones. Dry powders contain talc, others are in aqueous solutions, and still others are in solutions of kelp which does not have nutritional value. A close look at the labels of *Superthrive* and *Science Vitamin B-1*, for example, reveals that the ingredients are identical: NAA and vitamin B-1. Others simply say "hormones," the most commonly used being NAA and IBA.

The value of root promoters is well established, as shown by the tremendous number of reports in scientific journals of tests made on the rooting of cuttings of plant species. Thus, by all means, feel free to try some, but do read the labels and instructions and do not confuse plant hormones with fertilizers. And, don't look for miracles in a bottle which will revive a dead leaf or rejuvenate a terminally sick plant. Learn to understand the message on the label in order to avoid disappointments and confusion.

**You won't want to miss
The "New"
African Violet Magazine**

*— Coming to your mail boxes
beginning with the
July/August 1992 issue*

RENEW TODAY!

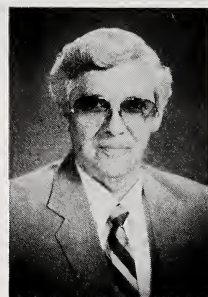


MAVERICK'S FADED JEANS

Blue Ribbon winner - Commercial Display Table
Santa Clara (CA) AVSA Convention 1991
Marie's Adoptable Violets

SHOWS AND JUDGES

*Bill Foster
3610 Gray Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150*



It was nice to see and visit with you again. The Ohio members did a grand job with the convention.

Thanks to the judges, clerks, and consultants for all the time you put in the show room. Your work is greatly appreciated.

The column for May/June is always a difficult one. The column must be written long before the AVSA convention; yet, you will be reading it after the convention has taken place. I will give you a report of the Shows and Judges Committee meeting, and the Judges Breakfast discussions in the September/October column.

We have had a few problems in the past year with registering judging schools. Perhaps we need to discuss this.

When a group decides to sponsor a judging school, a local chair should be appointed or selected in some manner. The chair should apply for registration blanks at least three months prior to the date of the judging school. This application should be made to Mrs. Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041.

The completed registration forms should be returned to Mrs. Skelton at least two months prior to the school at which point, Mrs. Skelton will notify the local chair, the teacher, the member of the Shows & Judges Committee in charge of approving exams, and the Shows and Judges Chair, me, that the school has been registered.

Once you have received verification that your school is registered, you only have to deal with the teacher. An exception to that would be if the date of the school would have to be

changed. The change should be sent to Mrs. Skelton.

The local chair passes out the teacher evaluation sheets at the school and collects them when they are completed. These are to be sent directly to me. On several occasions they have been sent to Mrs. Skelton. This should be done immediately.

On a number of occasions, I have had to wait for the evaluation sheets before I could process the school.

TEACHERS —

the representative from the Shows & Judges Committee that approves your exam is Mrs. Frances Young, 6109 Shadow Mountain Dr., Austin, TX 78731.

At times, these have been sent to Mrs. Frances King. Mrs. King is the Senior Judges Examiner and you should request your senior judges exam from her. Her address is 3327 28th St., San Diego, CA 92104. If you should lose your senior judges car, write to Mrs. King for a replacement.

Those of you who have met the qualifications for your Master Judges Certificate, should apply to Mrs. Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041.

Thanks to all of you for taking part in the survey to determine if we should change the Collection classes to separate the standards from the miniatures and semiminiatures.

It appears that the change is favored, but the final conclusion will be announced in the next column and if the proposal is adopted, rules governing the change will be stated.

Have a good summer!

FRIENDS of AVSA

Debbie Griffith
1212 S. Pierson Court
Lakewood, CO 80232

Springtime in the Rockies, as elsewhere, is a time of renewal; of course, tempered by our usual springtime moisture, *i.e.*, snow.

We've learned the two go hand in hand; without the snow, we can't expect the joys of spring and summer growth. Such is the case of AVSA: without the participation of the membership, AVSA can't achieve its full potential. Whether you choose to participate by giving of your time, your talents or your financial resources, your participation does matter.

Singularly, it's often hard to make an impact, but working together for the betterment of our Society we can make a difference, as is illustrated by the donations received by Friends of AVSA.

Working together, we can make an impact.

My sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to Friends of AVSA.

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council	\$100
Oshkosh Violet Society	25
Bakersfield AV Society	50
Tina Ferraiolo	20
Janice K. Tyler (Mrs. Raymond Blanchard)	50
Helen Handwerk	25
Mark Grigalunas	10
Susan Daigle	5
Leticia Potter	100
Mary J. Straka	10
Alice Meisenheimer	15
Nancy Twaskas	10
Celesta Cirkel	10
Supree Pojjanuvut	10
Max A. Wiczer	20
Mrs. George Doolittle	25
Bobbe Huntting	10
Paul E. Strand	5

N.W. Spencer	10
Late Bloomers of Green Co., WI	5
Richard & Anne Nicholas	50
Edith I. Duffield	25
Irving Gottesman	10
Mrs. Edward Buschke	10
Katherine S. Wood	10
Virginia Draudt	15

Total of all donations	\$1,985
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Come to Pennsylvania Dutch Country

Wouldn't you like a nice, relaxing stay in the country? There's this place in Pennsylvania — the Lancaster Host Golf Resort and Conference Center. That's where the 47th Annual Convention and Show of The African Violet Society of America will be held.

Located on 225 acres in the very heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country, the hotel is surrounded by rolling hills dotted with Amish farmhouses.

You will love the change from our usual "big city" conventions. The Lancaster Host has a 27-hole PGA championship golf course, driving range and night-lit putting green, eight indoor and four outdoor tennis courts and year 'round swimming.

And, if you don't get enough exercise with all that plus canvassing the sales tables, there is exercise equipment and saunas. They also feature six different areas that have everything from a quick breakfast to a club for dancing.

The entire Lancaster area abounds in much to see and do — shopping in the outlet stores, visiting the Amish markets, finding a quilt that would be just perfect for that spare room, or, taking a ride on the Strasburg Railroad and seeing firsthand a segment of America that still lives the "plain" life without cars and electricity.

Plan to join us April 19 through April 24, 1993 at Lancaster, Pennsylvania.



Wedding Promise (top)
Cape Cod Violetry

Ness' Frosty Belle (bottom)
Midland Violets



QUESTION

BOX



*James Smith
489 Linwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209*



Question: I have two plants that show brown patches around the outer edges of the leaves. I am not sure what the cause may be. My plants are grown under the following conditions:

1. Fertilizer - 1/4 tsp. per gallon of water with five drops of Superthrive. Peter's 20-20-20 and variegated special 5-59-17 are used.

2. Lights - a combination of one gro-lux and one cool white.

3. Humidity - 60 - 65% (a humidifier is used).

4. Watering - a wick method is used, pH is at 7.

My variegated plants are kept at the bottom of the shelf. What could be causing the browning?

Answer: Thank you for sending the leaves in the mail. While it was very cold, they did make it. While I see no problem with any of the items as you have stated, you did not mention anything about the type of soil used, or when you repot. The browning could be caused by cold weather, too acid soil, by chemical burns, or even heat. The most common cause is fertilizer salts build-up. Since you wick water, and don't top water, the salts, fertilizers and other minerals are not flushed from the soil. In fact they are drawn up into the pot by the wick and into the soil to collect. This concentration of salts will eventually cause damage to your plants in the form of leaf burn or browning. Even plants that are wick watered must be watered from the top to flush unused minerals, salts and fertilizer from the soil. Plants that are wick watered must be repotted at least every four months to keep the soil from becoming too acidic. Remove all

leaves that show brown spots and repot the plant in a soil that provides good aeration. You could also leach the soil with plain water once a month between repotting schedules. Either solution should help.

Question: For several years, I have grown a few violets in my kitchen window. They have bloomed quite well with minimal care. This past spring, I purchased a plant stand and then ordered some young plants. They were transplanted into 4-inch pots using Uni-Grow African Violet Mix which is a blend of fir bark, redwood saw dust, peat moss, washed sand, vermiculite and ground perlite. All plants grew rapidly and by late October, some were blooming. At that time, I noted that lower leaves were starting to wilt. Checking with a local nursery, they suggested that I use benomyl systemic fungicide when watering. I have also noted a growth on the leaves that reminds me of fine hair. This condition appears on plants with light green foliage. Dark green foliage seems not to be affected. Is there anything that I can do to correct the situation?

Answer: Your soil mix could be the problem. It could either be too acidic, or it may not allow adequate drainage to take place after watering. Check the pH level of the soil. It should be between 6.6 to 6.8. Under "normal" conditions, the soil should be on the dry side (NOT BONE DRY) before watering the plant again. If the soil stays too wet, add a little more perlite. Perlite allows for better aeration and drainage which the root system must have to survive. I am not

sure what the "hair" growth might be other than the start of mildew formation. To control mildew, use any good fungicide spray, and follow the label instructions. A cool-damp environment, in conjunction with poor ventilation, can cause a number of fungi to thrive. One type that forms a cottony-web in the center of the crown of the plant is botrytis. The leaves become translucent and brown and finally die off after tuning into a jelly-like consistency. This is called damping-off. Unless you change your growing environment, the problem will continue. Check your growing area to make sure that it is warm, well ventilated, but free of cold drafts. In the January/February 1992 issue of the AVM, on page 30, I described my growing conditions. Not all growers can duplicate these conditions, but they can come close to them. I find them ideal and my plants do quite well.

Question: HELP! I am at my wits end fighting with soil mealybug, and I need some straight answers. I have used chemical drenches (Cygon, Malathion) and have tried diatomaceous earth (useless), and have cut off more plants than I can count, re-rooted them from crowns or leaves, and still the mealies return. I've drenched on a 7 - 10 day schedule, but that causes such damage to the plants that I toss them anyway. I hate to use chemicals!

What I don't understand is, why the pests return to the plants that have cut free of all roots and soil (and lower leaves), and when re-rooted in water, they grow well for a few weeks or even months and then show infestation again. Even leaves taken from plants are rooted, send up babies, are potted up, and BOOM!, there we go again. Some of my large plants are on individual wick reservoirs. I use no communal wicking, no matting, just separate containers. What am I doing wrong? Why can't I get this nightmare to end? Must I throw all my plants away?

Answer: Discarding infected plants is the only thing you can do. Soil mealy bugs have been known to survive repeated drenches, no matter what chemical you use. To quote from

Pauline Bartholomew's book, "Growing To Show," this is what to look for: "Small, white, oval, waxy specks that resemble pieces of perlite. Prod with a pin, if it is a mealy bug, it moves. If the infestation is heavy, they also cluster above the soil around the base of the main stem and onto the lower axils of the petioles." She suggests that the leaves, or even the crown, can be salvaged by re-rooting. Spray these leaves and crowns thoroughly before you attempt this. YOUR problem could be that your soil is contaminated with mealy bugs. You didn't mention that you used fresh soil for re-rooting. Check your soil, and if in doubt, discard it. Purchase fresh soil (or if you mix your own, buy fresh materials) and re-try. Select young leaves from the CENTER of the plant and wash them thoroughly. If using the crown, I would suggest that after washing the stem, scrape it clean with a knife. As far as your growing environment is concerned, wash EVERYTHING with hot water, using 1 cup of bleach to the gallon. If you have one, a dishwasher is great for sanitizing utensils and pots. Soil mealy bugs are dreadful, and are difficult to eradicate. The best insurance policy is to inspect your collection daily, buy from reputable commercial growers, use good clean potting soil, and isolate all new plants from your collection for at least three months before adding them to your growing area.

Question: What makes my plants grow right out of their pots? Should I repot them and cover more of the stem? Should plants be fed continuously? How often should plants be repotted? Do African violets like to be pot-bound? Should I have two or three plants in a pot, or should they be separated? Would disbudding help my plants bloom more often?

Answer: So many questions, so little space ... HELP!, I need a secretary! Either your plants don't like their growing environment and they are trying to get away, or it could be that when the older leaves are being removed, a neck (long crown) is forming. I would tend to think

that your plants still love you, but need to be repotted. As you remove leaves that have died, broken off, or for whatever reason, a long crown is formed. To correct this, you can do one of two things. Remove the plant from the pot. Using a sharp knife, cut the root ball in half, or as much as is needed to set the bottom of the crown (part where the petioles of the leaves are attached) back into the container. Fill the void with fresh soil. If the crown is too long, it can be cut and re-rooted in water, or in soil. Keep a plastic bag over the plant while it is rooting. It helps to provide some extra humidity. I don't think African violets know when they are "pot-bound." I have grown a 10-inch plant in a 2-1/2 inch pot (shame on me). Lack of time is my only defense. The rule is, the pot should be 1/3 the diameter of the span of the plant's foliage.

All plants require a constant-feeding schedule each time they are watered. Plants, like you, like to eat regular meals. Use a good fertilizer with the formula numbers: 10-15-10, or 20-20-20. About 1/4 teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon of room-temperature water, used each time the plants need watering promotes good growth. Don't worry, plants don't gain weight like us, they just look beautiful. Perhaps I'll start eating fertilizer!

If you grow plants in the windowsill, the amount of light received at that time of year will determine when your plants will bloom, and how much. Since seasons change from year to year, as well as weather conditions, the best way is to grow using artificial lights.

African violets must be grown as single-crowned plants, unless they are trailers. Crowded conditions affect African violets adversely. Separate them and repot into individual pots.

The theory behind disbudding is that it promotes heavy blooming. To disbud, CUT the blossom stalk with scissors to about a quarter inch from the base where it is attached to the crown. To rip it, will destroy the cells that are forming new bloom stalks. If you leave the bloom stalk attached, new bloom stalks will

form on either side of it increasing bloom count. Don't forget to remove the old blossom stems, or you will lose points when the plants are judged. The schedule that is generally used is: for cooler temperatures of 58 to 65 degrees, disbud ten weeks before show date for doubles, and eight weeks for singles; less time is needed if your growing conditions are warmer. It is a trial and error situation, it also helps to PRAY A LOT!

If you haven't received an answer to your letter, it may be due to the fact that you didn't enclose a stamp. With the cost of postage, I would go broke if I had to provide your postage. So, no stamp, no reply. However, I will try to answer your letters in this column.

To date, I have received three letters of interest from commercials who will ship soil. For more information, contact the following commercials, all of whom advertise in the AVM: Violets By Appointment, Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, and Country Road Violets 'N' Things. They will send you their price list. All are excellent sources for soil.

Happy growing!



Show chair Barbara Courson won Best in Design, "Bon Voyage," at a recent First Lakeland AVS (FL) show.

A Chemical Analysis of the Flower Pigments In African Violets: Part IV

Dr. Jeff Smith
317 Wewoka Drive
Norman, OK 73071

Earlier papers in this series have described the results of a chromatography study of African violet flower pigments. Several different classes of pigments have been documented (Smith, 1990a). But when and where did these different pigments originate? Are they the results of recent mutations or have they been present since the beginning, hidden in the African violet species and the early cultivars? The purpose of this paper is to describe the results of a flower pigment study of the African Violet species and the "Original 10" cultivars. The purpose of the study was to see if some of the species and the early cultivars contained pigments other than Blue.

The flower samples were prepared and analyzed by the modified method used in Part III of this series. The use of small flower samples were necessary in many cases because of the smaller flower size and shyness of flowering habit of some of the species. Many of the species were tested originally from samples sent by Dolores Larsen and were rechecked from flower samples grown in my collection. Flower samples and/or plants of the "Original 10" cultivars were provided by Mrs. Larsen.

Table 1 shows the results of the 22 species and varieties tested to date. In all cases but one, the flowers were found to contain only the Blue pigment, Malvidin 3-Rutinoside-5-Glucoside. This is the same Blue pigment reported for the Blue cultivars tested earlier (Smith, 1990a). The concentration and patterning of the Blue pigment within the flowers does vary, however, from species to species.

One of the species, *S. diplotricha* Punter, had the Blue pigment, but also showed a faint trace

of the Pink pigment, Pelargonidin 3-Rutinoside-5-Glucoside. The Pink pigment was found in both flower samples from Mrs. Larsen and from flowers grown in my collection. None of the species showed any detectable amounts of other pigments such as Red or the Corals.

The results for the "Original 10" cultivars were very similar to that of the species and is shown in Table 2. Nine of the cultivars showed only the Blue pigment. These nine cultivars differed in pigment concentration, but not in pigment type. One cultivar, 'Amethyst' had the Blue pigment, but also contained a strong trace of the Pink pigment. The combination of Blue and Pink results in a color similar to the lavender Blends found in more recent cultivars (Smith, 1990b). The presence of the Pink pigment gives a noticeable pink-lavender tinge to the flowers of 'Amethyst.' No other pigments such as Red or the Corals were detected in the "Original 10" cultivars.

Based on these results, it would appear that the species and the earliest cultivars of African violets contained primarily one pigment, the Blue pigment Malvidin 3-Rutinoside - 5 - Glucoside. The other pigments (Red, Coral, etc.) are *not* found in these early plants and must have originated later by mutations. Artificial selection by Man has allowed these pigment mutations to survive and reproduce, resulting in the wide color choices available in today's cultivars.

The detection of the Pink pigment in *S. diplotricha* Punter and in 'Amethyst' suggests that the failure to totally convert all of the biochemical precursors (e.g., Pink pigment) to the Blue pigment may have originated quite

early. Selection for the “pinkish-lavender” tones seen in cultivars like ‘Amethyst’ may have lead to the lavenders and other Blends seen in today’s cultivars.

While it is true that a few species and varieties have not yet been tested (no flowers!) it seems unlikely that they will show any significant differences in their flower pigments from the results reported here. Testing will continue on the missing species if flowers become available.

The results of this study indicate that the original African violets contained almost exclusively the Blue pigment Malvidin 3 - Rutinoside - 5 - Glucoside. The flowers varied in pigment concentrations and sometimes in pattern (e.g., spotting in the center), but not in the actual flower pigment. It has been the chance mutations discovered and nurtured since African violets entered cultivation that has resulted in the wide color combinations seen today. It will be the mutations of today (such as Yellow), not the genetic material of the past, that will further the colors available in African violets. New mutations in the future may also become important in the colors of African violets. Keep your eyes open for the new and the unusual among the plants in your collection. You may be the lucky person who finds the newest flower color for our favorite plant, the African violet.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Dolores Larsen for graciously supplying flower and plant samples for analysis.

This project was sponsored by a grant from the Boyce Eden Research Fund.

Literature Cited

Smith, J. 1990a. A Chemical Analysis of the Flower Pigments in African Violets: Part I. AVM 43 (3) : 18-21.
 Smith, J. 1990b. A Chemical Analysis of the Flower Pigments in African Violets: Part II. AVM 43 (4) : 17-19.

Table 1: Species and varieties tested.

Plant	Pigment
<i>S. brevipilosa</i>	Blue
<i>S. confusa</i>	Blue
<i>S. difficilis</i>	Blue
<i>S. diplotricha</i>	Blue
<i>S. diplotricha</i> Punter	Blue, trace of Pink
<i>S. grandifolia</i>	Blue
<i>S. intermedia</i>	Blue
<i>S. ionantha</i>	Blue
<i>S. magungensis</i>	Blue
<i>S. magungensis minima</i>	Blue
<i>S. nitida</i>	Blue
<i>S. orbicularis</i>	Blue
<i>S. orbicularis purpurea</i>	Blue
<i>S. pendula</i>	Blue
<i>S. pendula</i> Kizare	Blue
<i>S. rupicola</i>	Blue
<i>S. shumensis</i>	Blue
<i>S. tongwensis</i>	Blue
<i>S. velutina</i>	Blue
<i>S. velutina</i> Amazon	Blue
House of Amani	Blue
Sigi Falls	Blue

Table 2: Original 10 Cultivars tested

Plant	Pigment
Admiral	Blue
Amethyst	Blue, strong trace of Pink
Blue Boy	Blue
Commodore	Blue
Mermaid	Blue
Neptune	Blue
Norseman	Blue
Number 32	Blue
Sailor Boy	Blue
Viking	Blue

Installation of Officers

*Doris Thirsk Palm
157 Shennandoah Trail
West Carrollton, OH 45449*

We are now to perform one of the most important ceremonies of our Society, the installation of officers of _____ (club name).

Our objectives are many, and include promoting interest in our hobby and our Society, as well as our own learning and improving our growing skills.

As I call your names, will you please stand:

- name—, President
- name—, First Vice President
- name—, Second Vice President
- name—, Secretary
- name—, Treasurer
- name—, Historian

It is an honor to be elected to serve as an officer of this organization. Your willingness to serve and to discharge the duties of your office to the best of your abilities and knowledge is a big step toward making your term successful.

NAME -, as President you shall have general superintendency of the affairs of this organization, shall preside at all meetings and appoint committee chairs. You shall also sign checks in the absence or inability of the Treasurer. It is also important that you inspire our members, preserve peace and harmony and lead our Society to success and accomplishment.

NAME -, as First Vice President you shall aid the President and in the event of her/his absence or inability you shall assume the duties of the presidency. You shall also serve as Program Chair.

NAME -, as Second Vice President you shall serve as Yearbook Chair, aid the President and First Vice President, and perform such other duties as may be assigned.

NAME -, as Secretary you shall be responsible for keeping accurate records of all meetings, for calling the roll at meetings and for

recording of all changes to the Bylaws or Standing Rules.

NAME -, as Treasurer you shall be responsible for paying all bills and for the safeguarding of and maintenance of records regarding funds.

NAME -, as Historian you shall keep a scrapbook and enter all dates pertaining to the history of this Society, and therein post all items of interest.

I now inquire of all of you, will you accept these offices to which you have been elected by this membership: so signify by raising your right hand and answering I WILL.

I WILL

Now, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, by the authority vested in me under our Society's Bylaws, do install all of you as officers of the — club name — for 1992 (year).

I charge all of you as officers, to discharge all of your duties to the best of your abilities in furtherance of the goals of our society.

You may be seated.

And, I further charge all of you, the membership, to support these officers you have elected loyally and in good faith, and to uphold your responsibilities as members of this society.

Thank you all.

LIBRARY:

Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, P. O. Box 3609, Beaumont, TX 77704. Complete list in July/August AVM. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Ralph Breden, 127 Via Los Altos, Redondo Beach, CA 90277.

Creating ...

with Fredette

Irene Fredette
1545 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517



Thank you for your heart-warming and positive responses to this column. Though I have answered a number of letters personally and shall continue to do so, there just aren't enough hours in a day to handle all correspondence on an individual basis. However, your input is appreciated and invaluable as a foundation for discussion in this and in future issues.

Q: Does propagating a variety through three generations guarantee that it will run true?

A: The three-generation rule helps in evaluating the cultivar but offers no guarantee. In fact, some types such as fantasies may be less "true" in the 15th generation than they were in the third or fourth. Others, especially the stable and dominant dark blue and purples, may be just like the parent in the second generation and on through succeeding generations. When a plant deviates from its description, this may be due to genetics and not necessarily the fault of its hybridizer. Usually, the more exotic ones such as some fantasies and certain bi-colors are somewhat unstable by nature and through the hybridizer may have been conscientious, some varieties can still exhibit occasional unexpected quirks in some of their offspring.

Q: How do I get maximum seed germination; and what is the best medium for sowing; and when do I transplant?

A: There are numerous suitable commercial mixes on the market. Or you can make your

own using finely milled sphagnum moss and/or fine vermiculite. Some people have even been known to sow on damp bricks but this is a procedure I have never tried since it seems a bit "out of orbit" when there are so many other practical choices. I have had excellent results with "Jiffy Mix" which I cover with water and slowly bring to a boil. When cooled sufficiently, the water is squeezed out and the mix patted down into a 1-1/2-2-inch layer in sterilized trays. I save the trays from petunias and other annuals purchased in the spring. Seeds are evenly scattered on top and the tray slipped into a plastic food storage bag. Little green specks begin to appear in 10 days to two weeks, though some may take longer. No problems with damping off or poor germination. When the tiny seedlings show four leaves, a dozen or less may be removed and carefully transplanted to another similar tray with a couple of small holes punched in the plastic bag. These will now grow very rapidly under lights and can soon be potted. After you see the first bloom and plant form and the cross looks quite promising, you can always return to the common tray for another sampling, if you wish.

Q: Should I give each new seedling the same care and attention I would give a show plant?

A: There are two schools of thought. My feeling is that if an unknown plant is pampered,

coddled, shaped, and given optimum care, it may perform beyond realistic expectations and beyond its normal or average capacity. Not every grower will give your cultivar the luxury treatment and you don't want your pampered beauty to behave badly under just "average or less" conditions. In fact, I believe it's a good idea to subject seedlings to a bit of hardship now and then. If they have never known anything other than ideal conditions, how can one determine if they are hardy, good-natured, and capable of easy adjustment to new environment?

Q. *Should all new cultivars be measured against the best of the show plants?*

A. The perfect show plant is an ideal worth pursuing, of course. But I am reluctant to reply with an unequivocal "Yes!" because there are other relevant factors. An important one to consider, if you are a commercial grower, is the marketplace and the variety of consumer needs. Let us assume you have a seedling with somewhat faulty symmetry or open leaf pattern. The show-oriented buyer may pass it by; however, if that seedling blooms continually on a coffee table with too little light for most varieties, and if it tolerates neglect and lack of expertise better than most, isn't it possible that these characteristics will be seen as endearing by some? An inexperienced beginner may need to feel that African violets are easy to grow. An initial success will often transform a skeptic into an enthusiast. I cannot provide a definitive answer to this question since the reply depends on your attitude and your perception of needs in the marketplace.

Q: *What do I cross in order to get variegated foliage and white blossoms with red spots and another fantasy which is red with white spots?*

A: An interesting goal! I wish I knew the answer.

Q: *Is it possible to use a variegated variety for the seed-bearing parent and still get green-leaved offspring?*

A: It happens occasionally though often such offspring may be capricious and the variegation may crop up again in subsequent generations. If the pollen came from a plant with very dark foliage, there is more likelihood of some non-variegated or "sometimes variegated" offspring.

Q. *Can you tell me something about the origin of 'Glittersweet' and if I use it in a cross, can I expect seedlings with a "glitter" edge?*

A. A plant of Joan Van Zele which was pink with random pink speckles was used as a parent. The most striking of the seedlings showed an interesting new pattern — a fantasy in which the speckles reassembled to cluster around the petal edges. This characteristic is heritable and 'Glittersweet' has been used extensively in order to produce other varieties with similar markings.

Q. *I have used 'Chiffon Print' in a cross without getting any fantasies. Can you explain why?*

A. Not really, since I have used it successfully several times. However, it seems to do better when the other parent is one with medium green rather than dark green foliage, although this could be just happenstance. Please bear in mind, when working with fantasies, that they are by nature somewhat unstable, sometimes reverting to solid color, either totally or in part. In order to minimize this tendency, one should select those seedlings which have a good balance between both colors. If there is too much blue on a pink background, there may be a higher degree of probability that it will revert to blue. If the blossom is mostly pink, with too little blue, eventually some all pink blossoms can be expected.

Q. *I'd like to create some coral trailers and minis but*

since there are none on the market, is it because this is impossible?

A: I believe there are some in existence since I vaguely recall seeing them listed in some catalogs. Corals are no more difficult than other recessives and there is no reason why you should avoid them. It is suggested that you use a really good, true coral, avoiding the pinks which are sometimes described as "coral."

Q: *What is "fade color" and why is it important in flowers?*

A: The term is frequently used by artists and restoration specialists. After some fully opened blossoms reach their peak, they begin to exhibit some color change long before they are actually spent or limp. During this transition period, it is the color rather than the blossom which begins to fade. You may have noticed that some blue fabric dyes have a pinkish or lavender "fade color" and that some blacks may acquire a gray or rusty look with the passage of time, without any actual deterioration of the fabric itself. So it is with blossoms. Your pink-flowering violet, when in full bloom, may show several shades of pink, from deep to pale, blending into a harmonious and pleasing bouquet. If so, its "fade color" is good. Another plant may exhibit unattractive, muddy hues in some mature blossoms. To the exhibitor, color retention or change is important because blossoms which retain good color need not be removed, as long as they appear fresh. Removing off-color or muddy blossoms decreases the blossom count, even though such blossoms may not be actually limp. Thus a good "fade color" is an asset. If the petal texture is acceptable but the color has lost its clarity, you have a poor "fade color" — not to be confused with a naturally unattractive color genetically inherited and present from bud to flower.

Q: *What new developments would you like to see in African violets?*

A: This could be a long list including more disease resistance, clusters of large blossoms on strong stems, stable striped blossoms to be propagated from leaf, new blossom shapes and colors, etc., etc. Some varieties with a pleasing fragrance might be appealing though this development seems unlikely unless some biotech laboratory can reach such a goal with genetic manipulation. If an Australian genetic engineering firm just recently managed to create a true blue rose by "borrowing" a gene from a petunia, why not a fragrant violet or a bright red one?



Shea Clifford, 6, of California, has a green thumb when it comes to growing violets. He is shown here with one of his favorites, *Gor-Jan*. Shea is following in the tradition of his great-grandmother, grandmother, mother and aunts.

He attends most of the local violet shows and hopes to enter some of his plants in the county fair this summer. Shea's grandfather was quite a gardener and this trait seems to have been passed on.

Keep up the good growing, Shea!

Club Condition: *A Cause for Leadership*

*Charles D. Ramser
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Wichita Falls, TX 76308*

It seems like a strange idea, to assemble at a state convention and talk about the people side of the club. That's just what we did in Fort Worth (TX) on November 2, 1991. The subject of the workshop was "club (or society) condition." The premise was that the Lone Star African Violet Council is no stronger than the groups that comprise it. With this in mind, I decided to touch lightly on several aspects of the people side: good human relations, member need satisfaction, recognition, retention, leadership, club purpose, communication dynamics, and conflict handling. Any one of these topics could have taken well over an hour in presentation and discussion.

CLUB CONDITION SURVEY

The vehicle used to get into these topics in a clear and constructive way was a "Club Condition Report" made up of 15 questions which were stated as follows, along with answers given by those in attendance — numbering 42 people representing 12 clubs:

Question 1: My club meetings are like the following: (1) unpleasant, unproductive; (2) mildly pleasant, disorganized; (3) fairly pleasant, interesting; (4) very pleasant, organized, productive.

The responses were predominantly number three. Twenty-nine people (or 70%) stated this. Number four, the best answer of all — club excellence — had 10 responses (for 24%). Three people left this question blank. In other words, seventy percent of the meetings are reported to be good, yet with a little room for improvement

No one reported meetings described by (1) or (2) above!

Question 2: Does everyone get involved in some way?

Seventeen people (40%) report "yes" to this question. The other twenty-five (60%) report that some members do not get involved. There is room here for improvement, assuming these people wish to be involved. If these non-involved people prefer no involvement, there must be other problems.

Question 3: Is there an atmosphere conducive to learning?

A very large 37 responses (88%) report "yes." This is exceptional, yet when thought about, is this not a big reason for the club in the first place? Learning is synonymous with life itself.

Question 4: Do people share information and support?

An astounding 41 people (98%) said "yes." Both of these ingredients are what a club should be about.

Question 5: Are new people treated well?

A sizeable majority of 37 (88%) reported "yes." Actually, everyone ought to be able to report this. New people are the lifeblood of any group. When people are new to an organization, they are carefully weighing the way they are treated and continued membership hangs delicately on the balance of their impression.

Question 6: Is there enough good leadership?

Good leadership is vital to any organization. Thirty-two (76%) answered affirmatively to this. The other 10 are sensing a gap in terms of this function, meaning the organization is not unified and probably going in too many directions.

Question 7: Is there enough good followership?

Even fewer indicated in the affirmative to this question: 29 (or 69%). Without effective followers, no club can function. In fact, you cannot have leadership without followership. Followership is involvement, or the willingness to do one's part on all projects, and display a sense of eagerness in the process.

Question 8: What member needs are met by your club?

The most frequent answer was "friendship" or "fellowship." A strong second was "learning." Others mentioned included "receiving support" and "giving support."

Question 9: What are your club goals?

The most common goals were "support of members and education of public" (19 [45%]), "growing" (18 [43%]), "showing" (12 [29%]), "friendship" (6 [14%]), and "membership" (4 [10%]). A second clause in the question asked if people agreed with them. Eighty-one percent did.

Question 10: Are some people overworked?

The rather profound answer to this question was "yes." Thirty nine people (93%) reported that some people in their organization were overworked. The danger here is that overwork causes burnout and apathy. Overwork takes away the joy of doing anything. Ultimately this burdens remaining members as they have to take over for former members who left due to burnout.

Question 11: Are some people left out?

Perceptions again here were not so positive.

Nineteen (45%) reported that some folks were left out of things. This can be as bad as overwork because left-out people ultimately leave as well, due to apathy. This represents a real waste of talent and energy.

Question 12: What are your group's most repeated problems?

Most commonly mentioned ones were "obtaining and holding new members," "older members tiring," "not enough growers," "apathy," "attitudes: we have always done it that way!" and "job conflicts as they affect attendance and participation."

Question 13: What types of programs are the most successful (and the most fun)?

The most common answers were "workshops and demonstrations," "hands on programs," "guest speakers," "panel discussions," and "field trips."

Question 14: How much unexplained absenteeism is there?

Twenty percent report a high amount of this, while eighty percent report "little" or "few." Any absenteeism should be dealt with first of all, by inquiring as to why a person missed a meeting. All of us like to feel that we are missed. Organizations must care for their members.

Question 15: Are people retiring from your organization at a high rate?

Only twelve percent report no problem here while the other eighty percent report a problem that needs attention. Retirement of key members is worse than periodic absenteeism. A decision to leave a group is not made overnight. All such decisions must be looked at from the standpoint of organization improvement. Legitimate cases of retirement are one thing, but a burned-out, overworked member leaving is another. This is a critical area.

Club Condition In Summary

From the above questions and responses, the

following generalizations are offered:

- While most club members find meetings positive (fairly effective), some said meetings are not perfect (defined as very pleasant, very interesting, and extremely productive). On the other hand, club meetings in general are a far cry from unpleasant or disorganized.
- Not everyone gets involved, yet just a little under one-half stated everyone really gets involved in activities.
- Overwhelmingly, the members said there was a learning atmosphere, people share information and support, new people are treated well, they know and agree with club goals, and absenteeism and retirement from the club are low. By a ratio of 3 to 1, members stated there is enough good leadership and followership. Over 90 percent said some people are overworked and almost one-half said some people are left out.
- Member needs met by clubs commonly are friendship and learning.
- Club goals are typically education, support, growing, and showing.
- The most successful programs tend to be demonstrations and hands-on experiences.
- The most repeated group problems are membership, burn-out, apathy, and negative attitudes about change.

THE THEORY BENEATH ALL THIS

The lesson of *good human relations* is to be humble enough to admit mistakes, be lavish with our compliments of others when they do a job well, seek the opinions of the group on significant matters, thank others for their time and efforts, and to remember that most everything is a team effort.*

In terms of human needs, the Maslow "hierarchy of needs" was presented.** People needs begin with the basic "physiological level" of food, water, air, etc. (not too unlike the plants we grow) and move into "safety and security."

When these needs are relatively satisfied, the area where an African Violet Society can really offer satisfaction comes into the picture: the "social, esteem, and self-actualization" need areas. For instance, when a person participates in club programs or meetings, one experiences a closeness with others which is need-satisfying in ways which are difficult to express in words. Recognition of our worth and value and receiving rewards for our efforts build our esteem. Earl Nightingale once said, "Praise to a human being represents what sunlight, water, and soil are to a plant — the climate in which one grows best." Even self-actualization occurs in the performance of club projects.

*paraphrased from "A Short Course in Human Relations," author unknown.

**Abraham Maslow, "A Theory of Human Motivation," *Psychological Review*, Vol. 50, 1943, p. 370-396.

Retention

Members of all organizations have needs such as the need to belong, to share, to have reachable goals, to have meaningful purpose, to have participation in rule determination, to know what is expected of one, to have a reasonable challenge, to experience a sense of progress, to receive information, and to have confidence and trust in leadership. *If most of these are consistently met, retention of members will be no problem.*

To restate it a little differently, if present leadership can develop a society or club which could tune into these needs, and at the same time keep listening, remain enthusiastic, retain a sense of humor, and make people feel important with the right degrees of responsibility and delegation — retention would not be a problem.

Conflict

When retention levels are high, clubs grow. As they grow they become more complex, and with complexity comes conflict. Let's take a

hypothetical example of slowly emerging conflict:

"You have concluded since your election as president of the club that you have a pretty good group — a real team effort when it comes to shows, sales, and projects, but you suspect something below the surface, so you decide to talk to a couple of the members that you feel more close to. Here's what you learn:

"In general we seem to have a pretty good group of people. The level of interest in African violets is high and people appreciate the help they get and the knowledge gained from the meetings. But everyone seems more interested in renewing their friendships than in the business meeting. There are whispers that you had not noticed before. There is a reluctance to take responsibility for things that need to be done. And something else, one or two of the members tend to rub others the wrong way because they have only a limited commitment. The same levels of recognition and praise seem to go their way, but they aren't carrying their weight. All the rest of us are bothered but none of us feels like laying it on the line. We are all just a little disgruntled by this. Some of us have recently decided to cut down on our commitment and willingness to chair shows, sales, and program projects because of this. Even at that, we will be doing more than they are. Yet, we do not want to do anything to jeopardize our club and its success."

The question can be asked: what to do with a problem like this? How can one handle a situation with potential confrontation and conflict?

Conflict management approaches range from "forcing the issue" to "avoiding it altogether."* Neither of these approaches work in the long run. It is better to "accommodate the needs of the other parties" if it can be done without giving away the shop in the process. Another approach is a "fifty-fifty compromise" where each side gets some of what it wants. But the best approach — the one where everyone wins — is "collaboration" where everyone rolls up their sleeves and strives for a mutual solution to the root problem. This requires a dedicated time

for co-laboring on the issues so that each side is heard and factored into a solution that is better than a compromise. In fact, it is the best possible solution. In the example above, the best approach would be a quick compromise in the spirit of accommodation followed by time spent on working out the root problems of low commitment due to club inflexibilities and inadequacies in meeting people needs.

TO SUM IT UP

To sum up all this, a good African Violet Society finds out what the needs of its people are, what makes them grow (no pun intended), and then strives to serve these needs in an optimal fashion.

We must remember: "Retention is high when people feel that they are important, respected, and are able to contribute to a worthwhile goal." [author unknown] In the words of Sey Chassler of *Parade* and *Redbook* magazines, "Act calmly. Remember: serenity begets confidence. Confidence begets cooperation. Cooperation begets accomplishment. Accomplishment is leadership. Anger is useless. Humor moves mountains. Listening is giving. Speaking is learning. Honesty is magic."

*K. W. Thomas, "Conflict and Conflict Management," in the *Handbook of Industrial and Organizational Psychology*, Edited by M. D. Dunnette, Chicago, Rand McNally, 1976, pp. 889-935.

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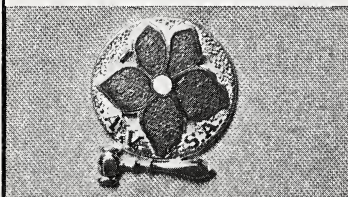
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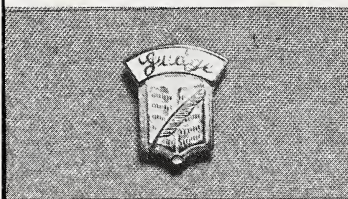
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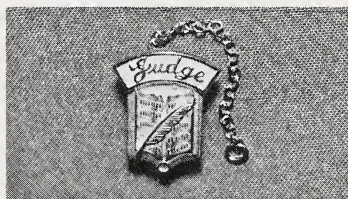
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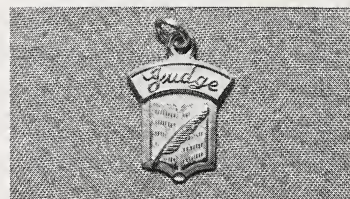
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SHOW TALK . . .

Darryl Hoover
912 S. Highland Ave., Apt. C
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To ensure each exhibitor and exhibit receives the recognition they deserve, please either print or type your results on the reporting form. Once you've completed the Show Talk report, please double check your spelling. I can check hybrids through the *MVL*; however, individual names require me to contact the particular affiliates show chair. This may delay the publishing of your show results.

Please include a self-addressed stamped post card with your report. This will allow me to acknowledge receipt of your report and allows me to inquire with the affiliate should the need arise.

UPPER PINELLAS AVS, FL - "Violets on the Waterfront," Phyllis King, show chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Louise Croteau*, *Pensi Orchid*, *Ness' Viking Maiden*; Best in show, *Louise Croteau*; Second best in show, *Pensi Orchid*; best miniature, *Toy Castle*; best semi, *Precious Pink*; sweepstakes (horticulture and design), **Phyllis King**. Second best AVSA collection, *Angel Frost*, *Phantom Flash*, *Granger's Blue Nimbus*, **Dorothy Hann**. Best design, "Sound of the Sea," **Dorthea Gill**. Best gesneriad, *Nematanthus 'Tropicana'*.

AVC of GREATER KANSAS CITY, KS - "African Violets Salute the Olympics," Pat Richards, show chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Little Pro (sm)*, *Rob's Pink Satin (sm)*, *Little Jayhawker (sm)*; best in show, *Little Pro*; second best in show, *Ness' Bangle Blue*; best semi, *Little Pro*, **Pat Richards**. Second best AVSA collection, *Devil-May-Car*, *Rhapsodie Ellen*, *Optimara Molokai*, **Francis Bearer**. Best design, "Pole Vault," sweepstakes (design), **Patty Hart**. Best trailer, *Rob's Sticky Wicket*,

Carol Allinson. Best miniature, *Petite Jewel*, sweepstakes (horticulture), **Sue Hill**. Best gesneriad, *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*, **Molly Blacketer**.

MID-POLK AVS, FL - "Way to go - Violets," Vena Griffith, show chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Apache Land*, *Touch of Velvet*, *Happy Hillbilly*; best in show, *Happy Hillbilly*; second best in show, *Milky Way Trail*; best trailer, *Milky Way Trail*; best miniature, *Optimara Violet Sapphire*; best semi, *Ness' Snow Bunny*; best gesneriad, *Chirita sinensis*; sweepstakes (horticulture), **Rita Hilton**. Best design, "Violets Go Antiquing," **Shirley Berger**.

FIRST LAKE LAND AVS, FL - "Violets Aboard," Barbara Courson, show chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Frosted Whisper*, *Cajun Delight*, *French Lilac*; best in show, *Frosted Whisper*; second best in show, *Falling Snow*; best trailer, *Falling Snow*; best miniature, *Optimara Little Moonstone*; sweepstakes (horticulture), **Chris Howell**. Second best AVSA collection, *Mindi Brooke*, *Lela Marie*, *Big Tease*; best gesneriad, *Sinningia pusilla*; best design, "Bon Voyage," **Barbara Courson**. Best semi, *Hector*, **Betty Rose**. Sweepstakes (design), **Claudette Brown**.

SOUTH COAST AVS, CA - "Violet Fashions," Jacquie Eisenhut, show chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Grandmother's Halo*, *Something Special*, *Bertha*; best in show, *Bertha*; second best in show, *Bertha*; best semi, *Precious Pink*, **George Crouchet**. Second best AVSA collection, *Belizaire*, *Sweet Temptation*, *Bourbon Mist*; sweepstakes (horticulture), **Marilee Beam**. Best design, "The Aerobics Class," **Toni**

Breden. Best trailer, *Happy Trails*, Everdina Inpijn. Best miniature, *Rob's Soliloquy*; best gesneriad, *Aeschynanthus 'Big Apple'*, Hans Inpijn.

RAYNE AVS, LA - "Violet Rayne Beau," Leora Peres, show chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Optimara Louisiana*, *Bertha*, *Lela Marie*; best in show, *Bertha*, **Letie Guidry**. Second best AVSA collection, *Tomahawk*, *Bertha*, *Cherry Cola*; second best in show, *Optimara Little Amethyst*; best design, "Leprechaun Frolic," best trailer, *Sapphire Trail*; best miniature, *Optimara Little Amethyst*; best semi, *Bogeyman*; sweepstakes (horticulture and design), **Lucy Menard**. Best gesneriad, *Episcia 'Kee Wee'*, **Mona Clark**.

DESERT SUN AVS, AZ - "Violets on Vacation," Chris Kemmerling/Barbara VanderLeest, show chairs. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Frosted Whisper*, *Sunlit Sugarplum*, *Picotee Petticoat*; best in show, *Honeysuckle Rose (tr)*; best trailer, *Honeysuckle Rose*; best semi, *Crushed Velvet*, **Hessel Leer**. Second best in show, *Fairy Flash*; sweepstakes (horticulture), **Kathe Luther**. Best design, "Hawaii," sweepstakes (design), **Rosemary Lort**. Best gesneriad, *Episcia 'Checkerboard'*, **Mark Lort**.

VIOLETS ON THE BAYOU, LA - "Violets Americana," Anaise LeBlanc, show chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Painted Sunrise*, *Fredette's Moonflower*, *Optimara Louisiana*; best in show, *Prince of Dixie*; second best in show, *Frosted Whisper*; sweepstakes (horticulture), **Phil and Pat Robichaux**. Second best AVSA collection, *Night Rider*, *Kissy Face*, *Fisherman's Paradise*; best miniature, *Optimara Rose Quartz*; best semi, *Little Pro*; best gesneriad, *Episcia 'Helen O'*, **Emily Fertitta**. Best design, sweepstakes (design), **Eva Folse**. Best trailer, *Snowy Trail*, **Bella Arcement**.

SPRING BRANCH AVS, TX - "African Violets Visit Mother Goose," Ellen Moskal, show chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Picasso*, *Big Charlie*, *Apache Diamond*; best in show, *Picasso*; second best in show, *Happy Chris*; best gesneriad, *Columnea 'Tri-color'*, sweepstakes

(horticulture), **Lenora Munk**. Second best AVSA collection, *Apache Jewel*, *Apac Diamond*, *Big Charlie*, **J. C. Munk**. Best design, "The Cat and the Fiddle," **Trish Wright**. Best miniature, *Optimara Little Moonstone*; best semi, *Little Keepsake*; sweepstakes (design), **Meredith Hall**.

BATON ROUGE AVS, LA - "Dining with Violets," Mrs. J. F. Spear, show chair. Winners: Best AVSA collection, *Ragusa Special*, *Magnolia*, *This Bud's Mine*; best in show, *Ragusa Special*; second best in show, *Dazzle Trail*; best design, "Heavenly Desserts," best trailer, *Dazzle Trail*; sweepstakes (horticulture), **Mrs. J. Y. Ragusa**. Second best AVSA collection, *Aluminum Foil*, *Picotee Petticoat*, *Greg*; best semi, *Hector*, **Mrs. J. F. Spear**. Best miniature, *Petite Jewel*, **Mrs. J. S. Gremillion**. Best gesneriad, *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*, **Sallie Barlow**. Sweepstakes (design), **Nancy David**.



George Crouchet holding *Bertha*, Best in Show at the South Coast AVS (CA) recent show. The theme for the show was "Violet Fashions."



Yellow-Red Seedling (top)
1393-B

NOLAN
BLANSIT

Seedling
from ivory breeding (bottom)



Disbudding for Show: Days to Prime

*Gary R. Beck
1155 Pine St., No. 4
San Francisco, CA 94109*

The most common complaint I hear at shows is two-fold: "my plants are all bloomed-out" and "my plants will be lovely in a week."

Many quote the "6, or 8 week disbudding program." Then, why didn't all their plants come into full bloom for the date of the judging?

For my first show to enter, in March 1977, I disbudded all doubles at 8 weeks prior to judging, and singles at 6 weeks. The results were mixed, and somehow I blamed myself. After two more shows in a year, I became to realize that African violet varieties are individual, just as we are.

I observed that some double-flowering plants took longer to bloom into prime than others. Some single-flowering plants bloomed quickly, while many others took much longer to look their best.

Being a life-long note-taker, I began writing down the number of days each variety was off from the standard disbudding program. For example, I noted that 'Half Moon Bay' needed about 4 more days than the standard 8 weeks to bloom into its prime, while 'Alzira' appeared to be about 5 days past its blooming prime, using the 6-week disbudding program.

Only occasionally did a plant seem to be right on time according to the standard schedule. In ensuing years, I learned that trailers and minis and semiminis desired more or less time of disbudding to be at their freshest prime at show time.

From these notes, written after each show, I devised a chart to record each hybrid in my collection, assigning a number of days that I felt the plant needed to reach its prime from the last

disbudding to date of judging. As each show passed, that number was adjusted according to the performance of its flowering. In some cases, it appeared the plant needed just two to four more days to look its best; in others, the plant seemed overbloomed, by one to five days. The number of days to top blooming was then adjusted.

This is a simple procedure, and requires only an eye-balling of each variety in your collection. The benefits are tremendous since each plant will be allowed the proper days of disbudding to reach its best blooming at judging.

The effect of weather during the 9 weeks from final disbudding to show ('Shutter Bug' takes 64 days in my conditions) must be addressed, since a short heat wave may speed the blossoming, unless adjustments are made in the growing conditions (open a window, turn lights off, use a fan). Or, a cloudy spell may slow the plants (turn up lights, increase heat). But, in San Francisco, I have experienced many variable weather conditions, and my plants have varied little from the determined days to prime, from show to show.

Try this program, experiment with it, record your notes, and I feel you will find that your plants will produce prime blossoms on the day of judging to a much greater extent than from a general disbudding program. Let me know your results!

Thanks, Columbus!

A Not So "Public" Announcement

Plant Parenthood

Claire Ulanoff
8405 SW 8th St. #110
Miami, FL 33126

Rule #1: Never be a show-off.

Rule #2: If a co-worker asks you how to grow violets from seed, run away!

I broke both rules and now must suffer the consequences. Actually, it turned out to be about 30 little consequences. Such an innocent question, such a simple procedure, and now such a crowded plant stand.

We were bored at work one day, talking about plants. She grows roses, I grow violets. I should have noticed that the sky darkened and thunder rumbled ominously (was that a warning?) when she said, "Show me how you pollinate a flower." Suddenly, in smoke and flame, these words appeared as if by magic on the office wall — DON'T DO IT — but I didn't listen. Oh no, not me. I was too busy showing off. Laughingly, I touched pollen to stigma — we made a few bad jokes about romance — and that was the end of it. Right.

Who knew it would take? And, after it took, who knew it would swell and grow and ripen? Even worse, who knew it would actually produce plants? Within a few weeks I had seedlings that were fighting each other for space in their plastic nursery.

Twelve of the heftiest little monsters started to grow at warp speed and had to be transplanted into 2" pots. They all but kicked the other plants out of their way on the light stand, pushing and shoving like leafy bullies until they got what they wanted.

Within a few more weeks, they started threatening to take the 2-1/2" pots away from

the rooted leaves next to them on the stand if I didn't start paying more attention. After a while, I was afraid they'd try to attack my cat just out of spite, so I did what they wanted.

Was this plant blackmail? They got their special pots and the best light and the best food, and that must have finally jollied them up enough so that they calmed down and immediately started putting out flower buds. Any day now, I'm going to find out what colors we got — with my luck they'll all be single blues!

Actually it's been interesting to see what came from this simple self-cross. One seedling is patch variegated. Two have wavy, medium green leaves that are longer than wide. The other nine all have round, dark green leaves with red backs. The parent plant was a patch variegated sport of 'Rhapsodie Alice.' I have to admit that the bigger they get, the fonder I become of them. Like puppies, though, I'll be glad when they're big enough to go to good homes at the office. My co-worker will get pick of the litter, since this was all her idea in the first place, and I'll remember to follow "The Rules" more closely in the future.

Then again, I wonder what would happen if I crossed that variegated seedling ...

For Advertising Rates and Information, contact:

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922 E. 14th St.
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Julia Fladt (top)

GRANGER GARDENS

Colleen





A Family Portrait

Georgene Albrecht
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071

Petrocosmea flaccida

Much like a saintpaulia, our feature plant, *Petrocosmea flaccida* (pet-roh-KAHS-mee-ah FLAS-sih-dah), forms a three-inch rosette and produces violet blooms. In his pronunciation guide, Walt Maurus gives a meaning of the name as "adornment of rocks." In their native habitat, Southeast Asia, they are found on mountain sides where temperatures may range from 50° to 75°. They must have cool temperatures and high humidity. Since they grow on or near rocks, they love to have lime added to their soil mixture. If you have a cool spot with about 500 footcandles of light, this plant is for you.

Petrocosmeas look like saintpaulias that might have mite. Now, don't get upset. They are extremely hirsute; one might even say that they are fuzzy. However, the hairs may grow in many different directions and the center growth does have a very light, tight look. Only when this center growth becomes hard, do we worry about a mite infestation. Mine grow well in a glass container because they like at least 50% humidity. The lowest spot in a growing area is usually the coolest. The bloom count of *flaccida* isn't anything to brag about, only one or two blooms to each peduncle. The other members of this genus have a higher number of blooms. If they do not have enough humidity, blooms will never fully open. Also, blooms tend to drop if the roots have been watered heavily. They love to be planted in any good African violet soil mix that has had lime and additional tiny chunks of whole, damp sphagnum moss

added.

I could find only about five species listed in this genus. In addition to our feature plant, there is *Petrocosmea kerrii* (KARE-ee-eye) which has yellow-white blooms in generous numbers. When grown well, it is spectacular. I have killed three of them, but am determined that, someday, I will succeed. They absolutely resent heat and we do not have air conditioning. Because of the yellow blooms, hybridizers were trying to cross this with the saintpaulia; however, it has a different chromosome number that could not produce. *P. nervosa* (ner-VO-sah) and *peltata* (pel-TAY-tah) may be easier to grow. I've seen pictures of *P. parryorum* (pair-ree-OR-um) which is larger than *flaccida* and produces many purple blooms.

Among the sources for some of these plants



are Home-Grown Gesneriads, P. O. Box 8417, Fredericksburg, VA 22404 - catalog, \$2.00 and Belisle's Violet House, P. O. Box 111, Radisson, WI 54867 - catalog, \$1.00. Contact your own sources for these beauties because many commercials do not list them although they have them in their collections. Their growth is slow and challenging. That's the fun of it.

By the way, Walt Maurus is updating his gesneriad pronunciation guide and for orchid lovers he has one available at a cost of \$9 post-paid from P. O. Box 2247, Livonia, MI 48150.

PEST CONTROL

Most of the questions asked of me seem to pertain to the safe control of pests inside the home. This is a subject most writers will not tackle simply because they or their publication do not want to be responsible for misunderstandings and misuse. I am no exception, so please, reading the following carefully and read all labels no matter how long it takes. Remember, never try a new product on all your plants; test it on just a few:

Diatomaceous earth is your safest defense against soil mealybug. Be sure that it is sharp enough to do the job of breaking down the pest's membranes. Place the earth in a clear plastic bag. If it is rough enough to scratch the plastic when you rub it around, it's most likely rough enough to kill. I have seen some diatomaceous that is so fine, it will not do the job.

Microencapsulated pesticides are safe to use in the home. X-Clude by Whitmire is a natural pyrethrin timed release insecticide that is very effective against ants, aphids, scales, fungus gnats, aerial mealybug, white flies and many more. Worth every penny. Knoxout is microencapsulated diazinon which is effective against all of the above and mites. It is available in concentrate and also in aerosols. When dealing with mites, it's best to toss the plant, soil and all, and wash the area with a 5% Clorox solution. Take cuttings, wash them and isolate all of them. If you want to try to save the plant,

remove the mite damaged area of the crown before spraying. This will remove a great many of the mites. When it comes to mites, make sure you really have them. Take a sample (completely enclosed) to an experienced grower, lab or agricultural agent.

Hyponex makes a great timed release house plant insect control for mealy bug, scale and thrips. This aerosol is widely available. As with all microencapsulated products, it must be completely mixed; this means we must shake it vigorously. The Hyponex product is encapsulated Diazinon. The reason it is safe to use in our homes is because the capsules retain the pesticide so that it releases slowly. We must protect ourselves and our pets, read every label. I think that the Air Guard Way by Mister-Konk is probably microencapsulated pyrethrin which is dispensed automatically.

At the last Pittsburgh Violet Society meeting, Alyce Rote shared some startling news about developing a sensitivity to an aerosol of the most familiar household disinfectant. The skin of her arms burned and became red. Call your physician immediately if this ever happens to you. Alyce asked me how I sprayed the aerosols. My plant shelf is covered with a painter's drop cloth and I hold the can under the plastic so that I don't have to breathe any of it. Hold the can a good 18 inches away to prevent propellant burn. When the shelves are uncovered in a few days, wipe the residue from the light tubes. Also, do not wash away the microencapsulated pesticides because they will work for many weeks.

If you can't use an aerosol, but want a good spot-check natural product in a pump bottle, try Schultz-Instant house plant and garden Insecticide Spray of pyrethrins. It is a water base, biodegradable with no propellants.

Another product that many growers use is an Ortho Hi-Power Indoor Insect Fogger which is made to control fleas, spiders, etc., in the home. A chemist who grows orchids told me that she has found this product highly effective without

damage to plant tissue. We were also told that saintpaulia growers use this in their plant rooms with no adverse effect on the plants. I want you to use common sense about this. The fogger must be used according to directions, paying particular attention to make sure the size of the room is adequate and that foodstuffs and pets are not exposed.

THE MAIL BOX

It was so nice to receive a card from Reg and Dorothy Townsend of Padstow, N.S.W., Australia. She had recorded my presentation at the Santa Clara convention in 1991 and shares it with growers as she travels. We hope to see them in Columbus.

Another unusual surprise was a letter from the Ukraine. It was mailed in November, 1991, at a time when the world map was changing daily. I found someone to translate and would like to share some of the letter.

The writer is Svetlana Primutskaya who considers herself a representative of a small club of violet admirers who propagate, grow and exhibit African violets. They have many excellent types, which she says are not known in the rest of the world. I'll bet they have no idea how much hybridizing the rest of the world has done. They would like to correspond, exchange experiments and seeds. She also says that they have heard the USA has a special magazine dedicated to violets. They do not have such a magazine available and would like to know how it is structured, published and if it really exists.

What a question! After making some telephone calls, we learned that someone in the Baltimore, MD club had just been responsible for sending the magazine. I salute that club.

There is even a commercial grower in Moscow. Of course, being a true gesneriadist, I am writing them to ask if anyone grows the other gesneriads. I'll bet they do.

How do you suppose they found my name. It's a small, small world, after all.



Shown is Lea Plaire with Best Gesneriad, *Sinningia pusilla*, at a recent First Lakeland AVS (FL) show.

Affiliates, Please Send to:

Bob Green
Affiliate Chairman
997 Botany Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955:

- 1.) Approval of Show Schedules
- 2.) \$5.00 Application Fee
for Award Packet
- 3.) \$1.50 for "Guide for Presidents
and AVSA Representatives"
- 4.) New Club Information

Growing African Violets With Wick Method and Natural Light

Doris Ann Jolley
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African violet enthusiasts are like mothers with their baby pictures — “have you seen my latest?” Although my pictures aren’t as good as seeing the real plant, I had just photographed three of my “latest pride and joys” when the last issue of *African Violet Magazine* arrived. To my delight there was a request for articles and PICTURES! I could show off my “latest,” but then a sobering thought crossed my mind. Would award-winning, expert growers frown on my “windowsill” violets? When I read the

letter to the editor from Rose Hammond, I had my answer. My violets might not win any show ribbons but there are people who might be interested in how I grow violets in natural light for my own pleasure (and anyone else who can be influenced).

Violets grown in natural light can be very beautiful and grow quite well if they are given the proper growing conditions. For example, one of my best growers is a plant I’ve had for over 10 years. It is ‘Edna Fischer’ which I pur-



‘Edna Fischer’ - over 19" across, 50 blossoms and grown in natural light.

chased from Fischer Greenhouses. (The plant was named for Mr. Fischer's mother.) When photographed, the plant was 19 inches across and had over 50 blossoms. The other two plants I photographed, recently, were 'Molokai' and 'Eve.' Both plants were 12 inches across. 'Molokai' had nearly 50 blossoms and 'Eve,' a younger plant, had just a few blossoms, however, it was the nearly 3-inch blossoms which were impressive to me.

I have recently reduced my collection to 57 plants which consist of variegated, non-variegated, micromini, mini, semimini, all size standards, chimera, and trailer varieties.

Although each grower has to find out what works best for his/her environment, the following paragraphs tell how I grow violets using only the wick method and natural light.

POTS

I use plastic pots. For my minis I use 2-1/4" and 3" pots. My standards are in 4-1/2" pots. I have found that the pot should be suited to the stem of the plant. The larger the stem, the larger the pot. When repotting, I keep minis in the same size pot. I scrape accumulations, in between repottings, off the rim of pots as these accumulations will eventually destroy leaves. I let my plants tell me when to repot.

WICK

My wicks are nylon. It can be purchased or nylon hose can be cut into wick size strips. The wick should be long enough for half of it to be in the soil and half to be in the water reservoir. If using hose wicks, cut the strip at least one-fourth to one-half inches wide, depending upon the size of the hole in your soil pot.

SOIL

The wick method requires a light, porous soil so that the roots will receive enough oxygen. I order my soil ready-mixed from a commercial grower but in the past have mixed my own using a recipe received at a Memphis African

violet show. The recipe is as follows:

- 4 cups African violet soil
- 2 cups vermiculite (coarse)
- 2 cups perlite

If you want a larger amount just keep the proportions the same. Keep the unused soil in a closed container so that it will remain insect free.

WATER

I use rain water. I have a rain barrel but other containers can serve as collectors of water. If treated water must be used, put water in open containers and let it sit for at least 24 hours so that harmful things can evaporate. The longer the water is allowed to sit the better.

RESERVOIRS

I use the Reservoir Wick Pot from a commercial grower and plastic water reservoirs from another commercial grower. For my minis I use 8 oz. and 16 oz. reservoirs. For larger plants I use the 32 oz. reservoirs and the Reservoir Wick Pot. The size of the reservoir is determined by the size of the pot which will rest upon it.

If you can get enough margarine tubs (or similar tubs) with snap tops which can be cut, cut out a hole to match the hole in your soil pot and you have a reservoir without additional purchase. I've even used plastic freezer cartons for reservoirs. The draw back is the varying size and the looks of each. I like a uniform appearance.

FERTILIZER

For better blossoms and growth, I use Peter's 12-36-14 for non-variegated plants and Peter's 5-50-17 for variegated plants. I mix SoilWash into the fertilized mixture and use this mixture every time I water my plants. I believe everyone has to choose the fertilizer and supplements that work with their plants.

INSECTICIDES

I use Benomyl (1-1/2 t. per gallon of water)

as a spray for mildew or mold on the plants or the soil and Kelthane (1/4 t. per quart of water) as a spray for everything else. I've been careful to isolate all new plants for at least two weeks or until I was certain there was no infestation. I think that is why I've had no problem with insects.

LIGHT

My plants are on plastic shelves in front of my windows or on the windowsill itself. In summer I hang sheer curtains over the east and southwest windows to keep violet leaves from burning. Those on the windowsills sometimes have to be moved depending on the violet and the temperature. My violets are in north, southwest, and east windows. If there is a large overhang to your house, a patio, or a carport outside the window, the light usually isn't sufficient, in my experience.

One problem I have with some plants is their tendency to be "leggy" with long stems which

stand up instead of lying flat. This, of course, indicates insufficient light for that plant. Strangely, some plants grow compact and flat even though others right beside them grow "leggy" or have stems reaching up!

In my opinion, sufficient sunlight is the biggest problem for "windowsill" African violet growers.

GENERAL

My violets don't like drafts so I turn overhead air vents away from the violets.

I keep my home temperatures between 65 and 80 degrees with the lower temperatures being at night.

Violet leaves love to have their "fuzz" brushed so I use a soft-bristled paint brush to brush dust off the violet leaves.

I always remove suckers from plants, with the exception of trailers.

I use leaf supports so that my plants won't hug the pots or break themselves on the rim of



(Left) 'Molokai' and (Right) 'Eve' - both grown in natural light.

the pot. My supports are the rings which fit several sizes of pots and the leaf support pots both purchased from commercial growers.

Sometimes my soil dries out in spite of the wick being in water. I add water from the top to soak the soil or place the soil pot down in the water reservoir for several hours. This solves the problem temporarily. So far I have found two causes for this drying out: the wick is too small for the plant or the plant needs new soil.

In direct opposition to the above condition, on repeated days of rain with little or no sunshine, I have had violets to take up too much water and become limp. Removing the wick from the water until the leaves firm up will usually solve this problem.

I've found that plants with light green leaves tolerate less direct light than dark green leaves, that variegated leaves require more direct light to stay variegated but will burn if the light is too direct, that light affects the color of the blossom and leaves, that when the plant gets a "neck" on it I'd better repot it or lose it, and that every plant has its own growing characteristics.

Finally, my advice to beginners or oldsters is to read the *African Violet Magazine* and get several good books that tell how to raise African violets.

As with most advice, tailor it to your own environment and let experience be a good teacher. There are many things to try, but they won't all work for you.

"Putting down leaves" will never be the same!

I Do It My Way

Val Anderson
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Like many of you African violet addicts out there, I have had my ups and downs while my plants have been growing; or, perhaps, I should say that my plants have had their ups and downs while I have tried to grow them; but that's just part of the fun of growing our African lovelies.

There is one area of AV culture, however, in which my plants and I have been more than successful. I'd like to share "my way" with all of you.

I have read about and tried many different methods of reproducing African violets from leaves, but the method I have worked out and use has consistently given me more healthy "babies" per leaf in a much, much shorter pe-

riod of time than anything else I have tried. Many of the leaves I have put down have produced 15 to 20 vigorous plantlets per leaf; the "record" so far is 33 off one leaf. (The standard varieties do produce more than the mini and semimini varieties; although, I have had a few varieties of both that really outdid themselves.) Most of the leaves I have put down have sent up plantlets in three to five weeks, but I have had several that sent up babies in a mere two weeks! Impossible?

Scout's honor, I am not exaggerating — when I started doing things my way, I was totally and completely unprepared for and astonished at the results. Yes, and just as disbelieving as you are right now, please, pick your-

selves up off the floor, control your hysterical laughter, and read on.

We all know that what works for one grower may not work for another; every grower has somewhat different growing conditions and there are differences in water quality to contend with, so I cannot absolutely promise success. But I really believe that this method is worth a try as it has worked for me all the time. I do hope you try it; and here's how you do it ...

EQUIPMENT

You will need the following equipment: a totally clear (not opaque), covered plastic, sweater-sized storage box, bathroom-size plastic drinking cups or small plastic pots — drainage holes are a must, Terra-Lite Redi-Earth potting soil, a very sharp knife, a very sharp pair of scissors, Peter's Professional 12-35-14 plant food, Peters Professional 15-30-15 plant food, Superthrive, and a plant stand with fluorescent lighting.

HOW TO ...

Begin by thoroughly cleaning the box, cups/pots, knife, and scissors in bleach water and follow with a very thorough rinsing. **DO NOT OMIT THIS STEP!** Also, make sure that your work area is as clean as possible.

Label your cups/pots with the names of the varieties you are putting down, fill each with the Terra-Lite Redi-Earth, and place in the clear box.

Mix 1/8 teaspoon of the 12-36-14 plant food and one drop Superthrive in one gallon of water. Pour about 1/2 inch in the bottom of the clear box, and allow one-half hour for the potting soil in the cups/pots to absorb the water. (While you're waiting, use the rest of the gallon on your plants.) When the half-hour is up, remove the now moistened cups/pots to your clean work surface, pour out any remaining water, and thoroughly rinse the box.

Take a healthy leaf from a plant, lay it on your work surface, and with the knife, make the

usual slanting cut through the petiole about 1-1/2 to 2 inches from the leaf base, then with the scissors remove the top 1/3 of the leaf, cutting straight across. Place the leaf at an angle in the properly labeled cup/pot and place this in the box. Repeat this process for each leaf you put down. (I highly recommend that you disinfect the knife and scissors between each leaf that you do, although I must admit that I don't always take the time to do this myself!) When you have all the leaves in the box, put on the cover, and place the box on the top shelf of your plant stand, under a light tube, of course.

THE WAITING BEGINS ...

During the next week, you will want to observe the box to make sure that there is neither too much moisture (leave the cover open a crack for a while if there is), or too little moisture (carefully add a little of the above-mentioned fertilizer water to each cup/pot in this case), and also make sure that none of the leaves are mildewed or rotted, although there should not be any problems of this sort if you have observed all the sanitary precautions and used healthy leaves from healthy plants. At the end of this week, you will want to check your leaves for rooting by giving a very gentle tug on each leaf. If you get the same results that I do, you will find that most, if not all, of the leaves are rooting.

AFTER THEY'VE ROOTED

After all the leaves have rooted, and the next time that you need to add water, mix 1/8 teaspoon of the 15-30-15 plant food and one drop Superthrive in one gallon of water and use it; from this time on, you will alternate the two formulas as watering is needed. It is expedient to be observant here — these boxes are not airtight, and with the bottom heat provided by placing the boxes on the top shelf, you will find that they dry out much faster than you expect!

Hopefully, you will experience the same success that I have, and will see plantlets show-

ing in anywhere from two to five weeks. The number of babies you will get off a leaf, and the speed with which they appear, depend on several things; the age of the leaf, the genetic make-up of the leaf, and the health of the leaf. A "middle-aged" leaf, or one taken from the middle rows of the plant, reproduces best.

Some varieties of violets consistently produce more plantlets per leaf than do others, and it's interesting to discover which are really rabbits in disguise.

Some varieties send up babies in a great big hurry, others take a little longer. The more robust the leaf, of course, the better the results — you are not going to get good results from a limp, wimpy leaf!

POT THEM UP!

When your plantlets are ready to pot up, please gradually harden them off by slowly, day by day, opening the cover wider and wider, until you can remove it; this allows them time to adjust from the conditions of their nice warm incubator to the conditions of the "outside world."

Also, in order to avoid shock when potting up, use your regular growing medium, but fill the center with Redi-Earth and place the little plant in this so that those delicate little roots don't have to fight a heavier medium, and can slowly grow out into your regular medium. And please, try really hard not to handle the tiny roots — they are so very fragile.

Water the newly potted plants with the 12-36-14/one drop Superthrive mix the first time, and then switch to your regular fertilizing routine.

WORD OF CAUTION

A word of caution here — when all those plantlets start popping up, it is so very tempting to allow them all to grow on, but a little hard-hearted culling is called for. Watch for, and carefully remove the weaker plantlets, and allow only the stronger ones to grow; you will still

have more babies than you know what to do with, especially when you start potting them up.

QUESTION YOUR SANITY!

At this point, you will wonder whatever possessed you to do this in the first place.

Why does this method work so well? I think it is a lucky combination of all the factors involved. Some of them go against the "rules" of growing, but it works anyway. I do believe the bottom heat provided by placing the box on the top shelf is very important; in fact, the temperature inside the box should read at 80 - 82° F (27 - 28° C). It is at this level that I get the best results.

and ...

PLEASE - GIVE IT A TRY!

Give this method a try with a few leaves (don't go hog wild at first) to see how it goes for you. I do know that it has worked perfectly for at least two other "violeteers" who did it exactly in the manner described, and I wish you the same success!

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN BLOSSOM HOLDERS

The African Violet Newsletter
The AVS of Rochester (NY)

You can make simple blossom holders out of a short length of a plastic drinking straw.

Cut a piece about 1" long, and seal one end with a piece of floral clay. If you need some extra height, insert a piece of florists wire through the clay along one side of the straw.

Wrap the entire holder with floral tape — in a spiral pattern. Tuck in at the top to totally cover the straw.

Don't Believe a Word of IT!

Walt Maurus
P. O. Box 2247
Livonia, MI 48151

In the early 1980s, Barb and I attended an AVSA convention and enjoyed it very much. One of the speakers was a well-known author who had just written a book about saintpaulia care and culture which now is accepted as a kind of textbook on the subject. I had been growing violets at home in the usual, casual manner most of us employ — buy one, put it in front of a window, water it and will it to do its stuff.

Well, by the time the author finished speaking, I was in shock. It became apparent that my plants were indeed growing and blooming by sheer will alone because I had apparently been doing everything wrong! I would have to go home and start all over. And I did. I took him at his word.

The author subscribes to using the Cornell University version of soil — it isn't soil at all — at least not in the conventional sense. It consists of peat moss, perlite and vermiculite, as you may already know. Plain old garden or potting soil had to go and I got rid of it. The rationale is that plain old soil is too heavy and impenetrable for good root growth.

A mixture of peat moss, perlite and vermiculite is a very light weight one as compared to garden soil, even when wet. Particles of them are differently sized and shaped, assuring that water and even air are available to roots that can move through freely. Of course, since it isn't really soil and provides almost no nutrients to the plant, fertilizer must be used to feed it.

Well, OK. I've done this for a number of years

and been generally quite pleased with the formula and how my plants have been growing. But the, doubts have been slowly forming. At one point, for instance, I was losing plants for no seemingly good reason and found out that the peat moss I was using was rotting quickly and was knocking my pH down to under 4.0. It had gone acid and plant roots were dying.

A suggestion made was that that peat moss had come from deep down in the bog and was well on the way to rotting when it was bagged and sold. It was difficult, to say the least, to repot a basement full of plants. What I did learn, the hard way, is that there are culturally good reasons to repot using new "soil" beyond the fact that a growing plant in time will need a larger pot. Repotting after six months time may prevent souring peat moss from adversely affecting a plant.

The Cornell soil formula is usually referred to as 3-2-1. That is, 3 portions of peat moss to which 2 portions of perlite and 1 portion of vermiculite are added. That adds up to the peat moss being half of the mix.

At about the same time, the President of our local plant club did a show and tell program about experiments he was doing. He had a plant growing in just perlite, another in just vermiculite and another in just water. Fertilizer, of course, was present in all water used. All were doing just fine.

Being a nit-picker of the first order (and a good friend) he was still dissatisfied. He was looking for the ultimate in growing media. He abhors peat moss for its tendency to turn sour.

What does the above teach? It tells me that the Cornell mix of ingredients with the addition of fertilized water is in truth, a variety of hydro-

ponic culture and that our plants will grow if we provide fertilized water. Inert materials like vermiculite and/or perlite, provide anchorage and stability. The only disadvantage I can see to using just perlite or just vermiculite as anchorage is that algae grows on the surface. It just does not seem aesthetically correct.

For some time now, I've been using a 1-1-1 mix; that is, one part perlite, one part vermiculite and one part potting soil. No peat moss. The plants are doing just fine. I feel that the small amount of potting soil is not enough to be too heavy or too compacting and it might even add some nutrition.

Now, you may judge this article as just another one of those that says if you do things my way you will grow excellent violets. Not necessarily. It should say, try my way as an experiment with a plant or three. Don't just adopt my way because I say so. Try it and then evaluate. Use the scientific method of trying to duplicate data. Maybe in time you can send a rebuttal to this magazine.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I know of two different times The African Violet Society of America, Inc., has tried to get the beautiful African violet on the postage stamp.

On June 8, 1992, we will be able to buy Wild Flowers on the 29¢ stamps.

They have had, as you know, the rose and the orchid on the stamp.

As I write this letter, Elvis is going to be on the stamp and our newspaper has been writing about this everyday.

When we had a club in our area, each member wrote a letter to the Postmaster General, but we had no luck. Do you know why they won't

use our beautiful blossoms on the stamp?

If they only knew the postage we use through this society, do you think they might reconsider?

Won't you please give a small space in the magazine, once more, and if we worry them enough with our letters ... well, here's hoping. Sincerely,

Janet Otey
2813 Neil Dr. NW
Roanoke, VA 24019

(Editor's Note: The Postmaster missed the boat not introducing the African violet on a stamp in 1992 — this being the 100th anniversary of its discovery. Anyone interested in a letter campaign should write Mrs. Otey. I do not know why our pleas have gone unanswered.)



At a recent First Lakeland AVS (FL) show, Chris Howell won Best Collection with *Cajun Delight*, *French Lilac* and *Frosted Whisper* (holding) which also won Best in Show.

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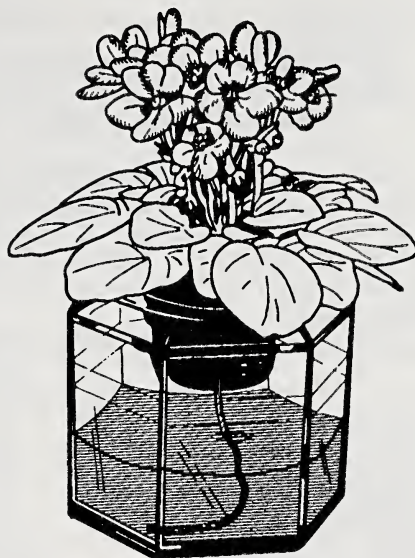
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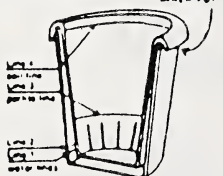
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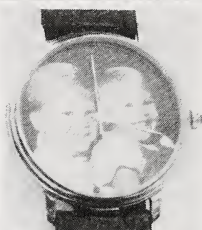
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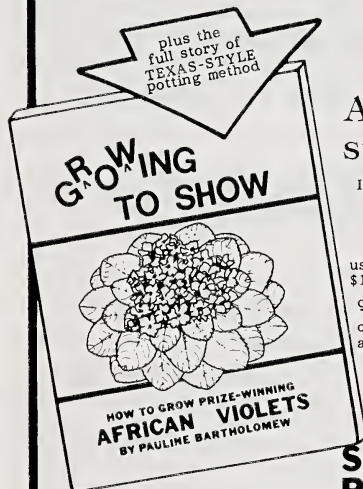
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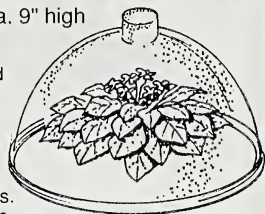
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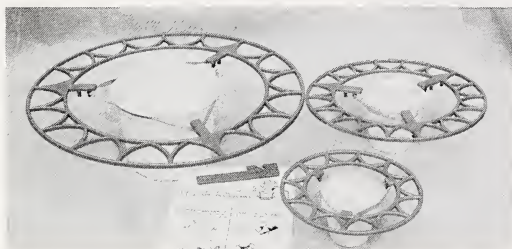
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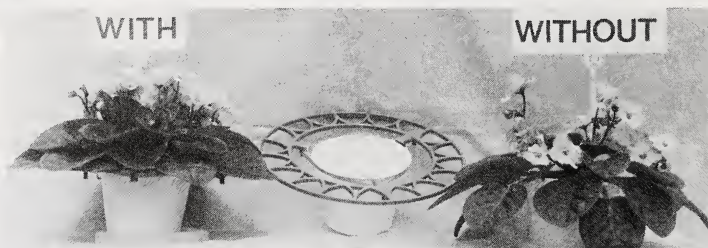
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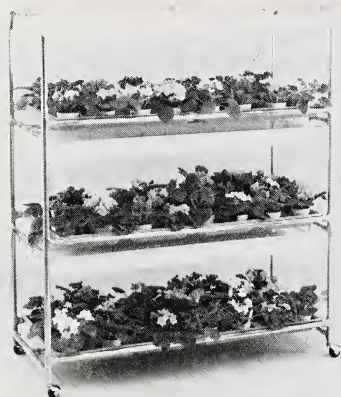
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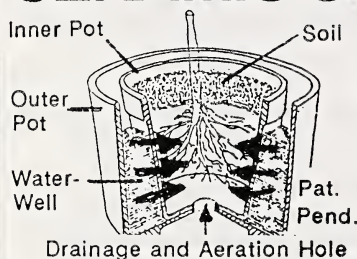
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- ONLY OCCASIONAL FILLING
- CREATE A MOIST CLIMATE

FREE BROCHURE AVAILABLE

A Bottom Drainage Hole provides for aeration, flush watering, and water overflow. The level of the water in the well is in clear view and creates a healthy, humid environment for the plant. No wicks. Capillary action waters the plant evenly through the circular porous liner. Watering schedule lasts for several weeks, depending upon the plant's needs and it's environment.

NEW! GROWERS' SERIES

Natural, Terra Cotta S-W Pot.
Saucers Optional. Please Call.

Ideal For Plant Light Stand Trays.

Decorative Series (includes matching glazed saucer):

Terra Cotta Pot Glazed in Your	2-1/2"	6.95 ea	5.45 ea	5.15 ea	4.95 ea	4.65 ea	4.35 ea
Choice of Color:	4"	12.95 ea	10.10 ea	9.60 ea	9.20 ea	8.70 ea	8.15 ea

Clear; Black; Celadon; Green; Mauve; Candied Apple Red; Teal Blue; White.

Shipping & Handling Charges:

Order Total: Up to \$7, Add \$2.50; \$7.01-\$20, Add \$3.50;

\$20.01-\$40, Add\$7.00; \$40.01-\$60, Add \$10.50;

Over \$60, Add \$14

OHIO residents include 7% Sales Tax

VISA/MasterCard/ American Express Accepted

QUANTITY

Size	Each	10	15	25	50	100
2-1/2"	\$ 2.70	\$ 21	\$ 30	\$ 48	\$ 90	\$ 170
4"	3.30	26	37	59	110	208

PLANTERS INTERNATIONAL

2635 Noble Rd., Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44121 USA

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[(216) 382-3539 / Fax:(216) 382-2743]

PLASTIC FLOWER POTS

Inch Size	Color	Type	Number of Pots				
			10	20	50	100	500
2-1/4	Wh or Gr	RS or SQ	1.20	2.10	4.50	8.00	31.00
2-1/2	Wh or Gr	RS or SQ	1.40	2.35	5.00	9.00	37.00
3	Wh or Gr	RS/RT/SQ	1.70	3.15	7.00	13.00	55.00
3-1/2	Wh or Gr	RT or SQ	1.95	3.60	8.25	15.00	65.00
4	Wh or Gr	RS/RT/SQ	2.40	4.25	9.50	17.25	76.00
4-1/2	Wh or Gr	RS/RT/SQ	2.60	4.75	10.50	19.00	86.00
5	Wh or Gr	RS or RT	3.10	5.70	13.00	23.00	105.00
6	Wh or Gr	RS or RT	3.85	6.75	15.50	29.00	130.00
6-1/2	Wh or Gr	RT	4.35	7.75	17.75	33.00	
7	Wh or Gr	RS	7.10	13.50	31.25		
8	Wh or Gr	RS or RT	8.00	15.50	36.00	*SEE NOTE	

*For more than 50 of 6-1/2", 7" & 8" pots send for special quote.

*Type" note: RS (round standard) = height & top width are equal
RT (round tub) = height is 3/4 top width
SQ (square) = volume same as RS

PLASTIC PAN POTS

Very shallow — depth is half the width of the top.

Top Diam.	Color	10	20	50	100	250
5"	Wh or Gr	3.20	6.00	14.00	25.50	58.00
6"	Wh or Gr	4.00	7.75	18.00	33.50	78.00
6-1/2"	Wh or Gr	4.25	8.25	19.25	36.25	88.00
8"	Wh or Gr	6.40	12.00	28.00	54.00	129.00
10"	Wh or Gr	9.90	18.75	45.00	85.50	208.00

PLANT CARE ITEMS

Soiless mixes and Ingredients: 8 gal. maximum for one shipping charge.

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, dolomite lime & trace of Peters	2 Gal.	\$3.25
FINE SEEDLING MIX - Similar to VH mix, no Peters & finer vermiculite	2 Gal.	3.25
PERLITE - Aerates Mix	1 Gal.	1.75
VERMICULITE - Helps maintain moisture	1 Gal.	1.75
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 Gal.	2.75
DOLOMITE LIME - Raises alkalinity of too acid soil	1 lb.	1.30

CAPILLARY MATTING - "Vattex"

Water, using capillary action. Vattex is a gray matting with a thin black, perforated plastic sheet on top. Thus algae growth is minimized. It is washable, tough, but can be cut easily with shears. It is 4 feet wide. (eg.: 1' x 4' = 4 sq. ft.)

\$.40 per sq. ft.

Wick-water with: PLASTIC WATER RESERVOIRS

Height	20	50	100	500
8 oz. 1-3/4"	\$7.75	18.00	32.00	130.00
16 oz. 3"	7.75	18.00	32.00	130.00
32 oz. 3"	12.00	26.75	49.50	190.00

We do not supply wicks.

5" pans can fit in top of 8 or 16 oz.

Reservoirs without lids are 1/2 priced.



Send Orders To:

THE VIOLET HOUSE
P. O. Box 1274
Gainesville, Florida 32602
Phone (904) 377-8465

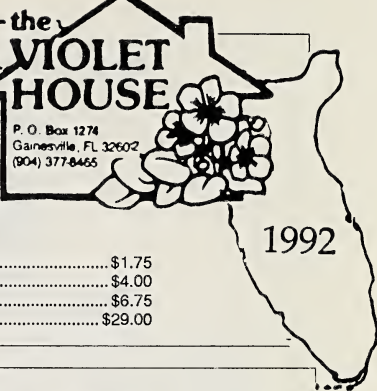
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NOW WE HAVE SOME

1-3/4" TALL X 2-1/8" WIDE
White and Terra Cotta

20		\$1.75
50		\$4.00
100		\$6.75
500		\$29.00

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SEEDS

We continue to offer Nadeau's African Violet Seeds
(1) Standard; (2) Miniature; (3) Variegated; (4) Trailer
PACKETS

(100 seeds and instructions) \$5.00

KITS
(100 seeds, instructions, Jiffy-7 pellets,
& starter container) \$5.50

Jeanie Moe's Sinningia Seeds are still available in five different
selections: (A) Purple; (B) Maroon; (C) Pink; (D) Mini Mix;
& (E) Micro-mini Mix

PACKET
(100 seeds and instruction sheet) \$4.00

KIT
(100 seeds, instructions, starter container
& Jiffy-7 pellet) \$4.50

See our catalog for descriptions

JIFFY-7 PELLETS - 12¢ EACH

STARTER GREENHOUSE \$5.00 COMPLETE
For starting leaves or seedlings, 22" long x 11" wide
includes tray, 72 cavity insert & clear dome

LABELS

3" white, plastic 100 for \$1.25
4" white, plastic 100 for \$1.75

LEAF SUPPORTS - J. F. INDUSTRIES

SIZE	3	10	25
6" fits up to 3" pot	\$2.75	8.00	18.00
9" fits up to 5" pot	3.25	9.50	21.00
12" fits up to 5" pot	4.00	11.00	23.75
15" fits up to 8" pot	6.25	17.75	37.50
18" fits up to 8" pot	7.00	20.00	41.00

GRANNY'S BLOOMER -- JUNGLE JUICE

2 ounce bottle \$1.60
6 ounce bottle 3.00

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Many other items are listed: MOISTRITES, OYAMA PLANTERS, Insecticides, Fertilizers, Masks and Pens, Meters, Trays, Soil Supplements. Minimum order is \$7.50 plus shipping & handling
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TINARI'S CENTENNIAL SERIES TO CELEBRATE



Discovery of the African Violet — 1892 - 1992

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CENTENNIAL FLARE .. Full double burgundy blossom, serrated edge interesting heart-shaped leaf red reverse ... \$2.95

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